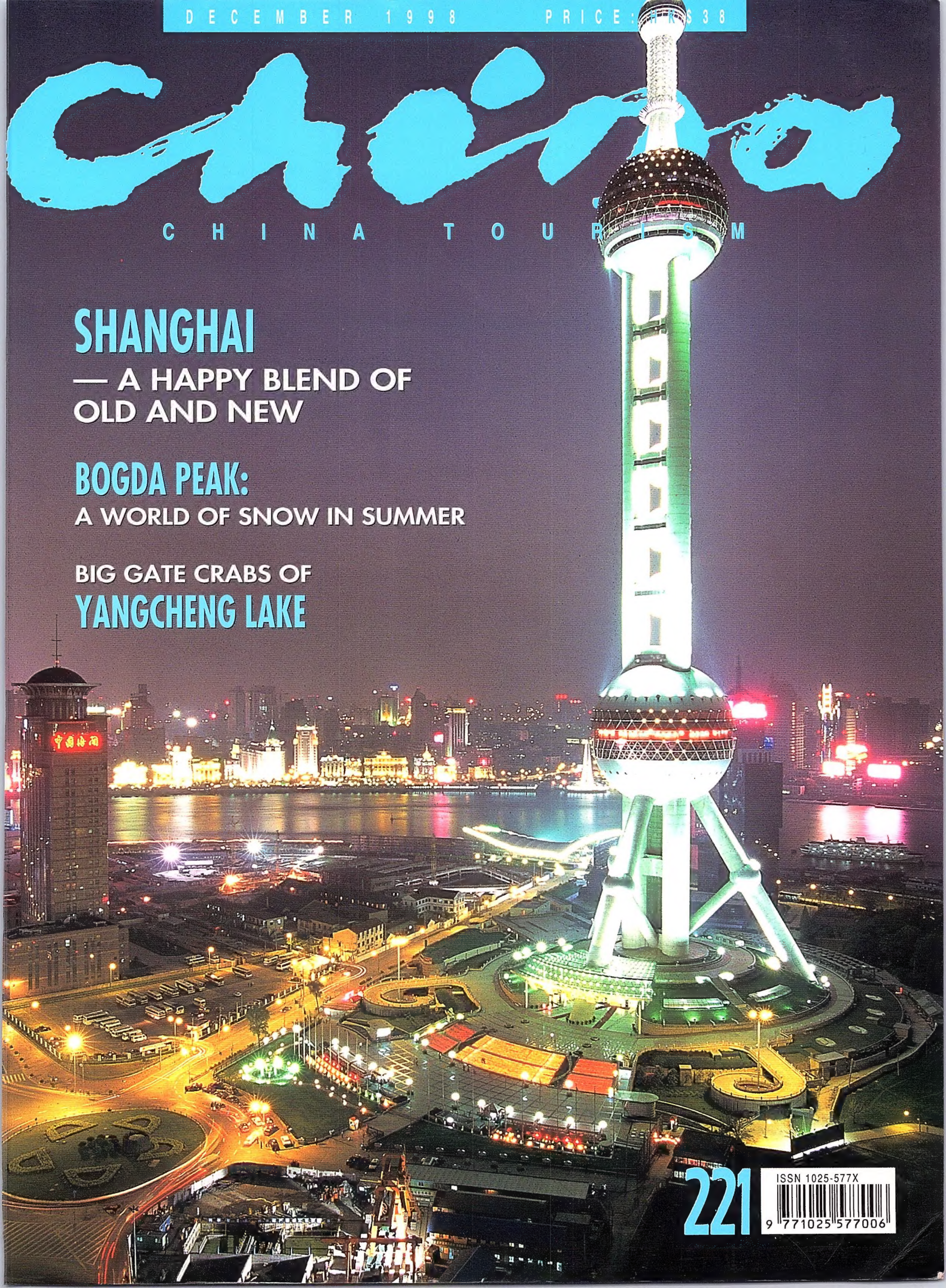
DECEMBER 1998 PRICE: HK$38

China

CHINA TOURISM



SHANGHAI
— A HAPPY BLEND OF OLD AND NEW

BOGDA PEAK:
A WORLD OF SNOW IN SUMMER

BIG GATE CRABS OF
YANGCHENG LAKE

221

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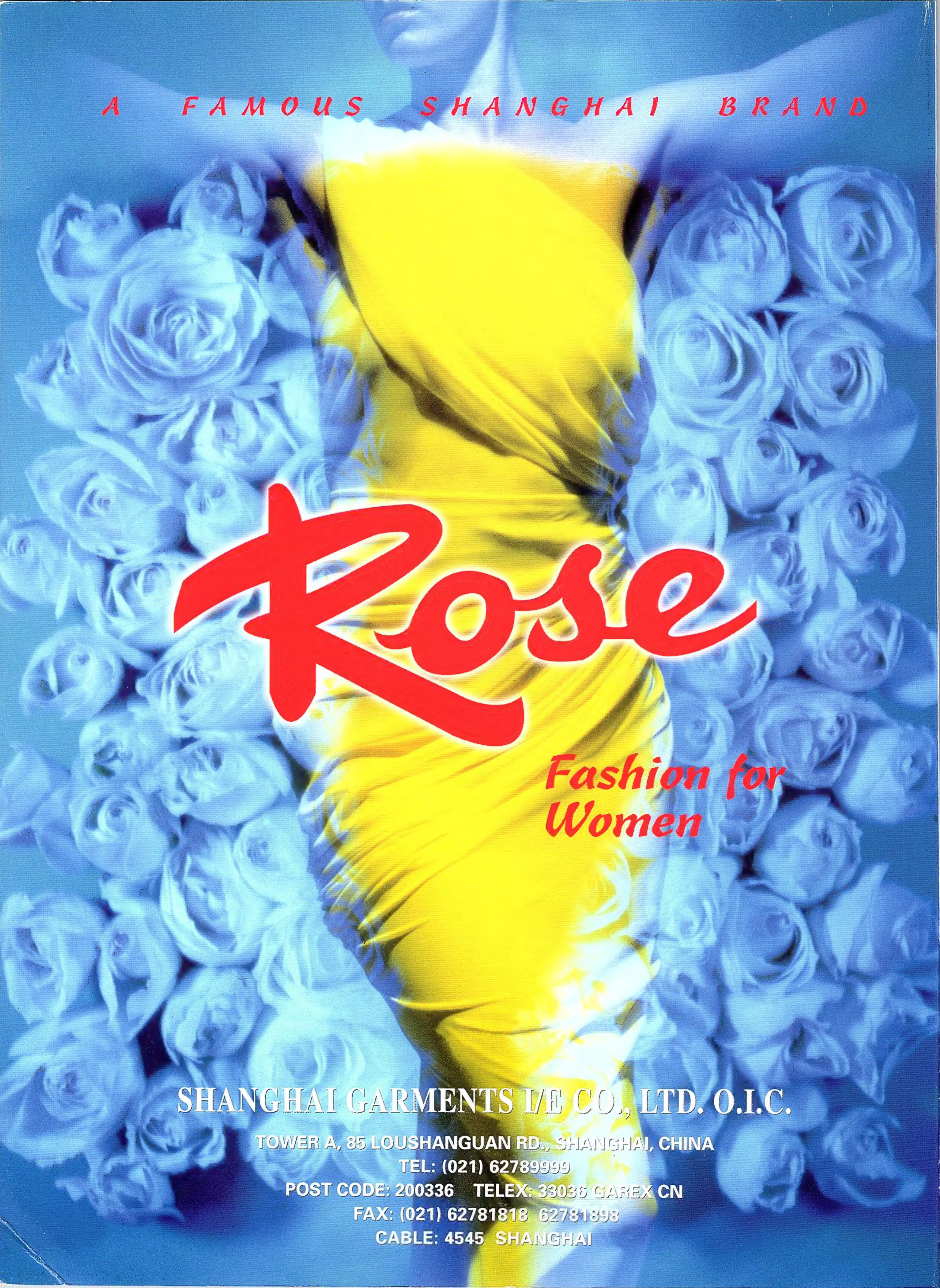

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和平饭店
PEACE HOTEL

The Word-Famous Peace Hotel

President Clinton visiting Peace Hotel

Located on the flourishing Nanjing Road East, at the Bund, the four-star Peace Hotel is a member of the Jinjiang Group. The former Cathay Hotel was built in 1929 in a Gothic style and was one of the earliest mansions at the Bund. It used to be regarded to as "The No. 1 Building in the Far East". The present Peace Hotel has established itself as a world-famous hotel and has won various honours, including the international quality prize "Arch of Europe" and one of "The Top Star-rated Hotels of China".

Guestrooms are spacious and comfort

Well equipped, the hotel provides guests with spacious and comfortable living quarters. Its suites are decorated in nine different national styles: Chinese, British, American, French, Japanese, Italian, German, Indian and Spanish. Each is unique and considered to be a "treasure of China". Its 18 restaurants and dining halls, including the Dragon & Phoenix Hall, the Peace Hall and the Peace Grill, offer dishes of both Chinese and foreign cuisine, including Shanghai, French and Japanese. Dishes are prepared by experienced chefs, some of whom are hired from France and Japan. The roof garden provides an excellent panoramic view of the Huangpu River and the Shanghai TV Tower, the Pearl of the Orient. In the evening, there is a Jazz band composed of six senior musicians playing tunes from the 1930s-40s, satisfying people's for nostalgia. This old Jazz band has made numerous overseas trips to the United States, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 1996, the Old Jazz Bar was voted the "most favoured bar" by expatriates in Shanghai, and was again listed as one of the best bars in the world by News Week. The complete facilities in the hotel satisfy customers' demands in various areas, be it for business, living, leisure, entertainment, or others.

The Peace Hall

A well-equipped conference room

Furthermore, the charming Peace Hotel offers an unmatchable night scene

Peace Hotel at night

PEACE HOTEL
Add: 20 Nanjing Road (E), Shanghai, China Postcode: 200002
Tel: (21) 6321 6888 Fax: (21) 63290300 Homepage: http://www.shanghaipeacehotel.com

JIN JIANG HOTEL JIN JIANG HOTEL JIN JIANG HOTEL

The Jin Jiang Assembly Hall

錦江飯店
JIN JIANG HOTEL

上海市錦江（集團）公司
SHANGHAI JIN JIANG (GROUP) CO.

Jin Jiang Hotel, situated in Maoming Road in the city centre of Shanghai, is a leading hotel in this renowned metropolis. The hotel is designed and built like a garden, and one-third of its 30,000-square-metre area is covered with vegetation. It has hosted more than 300 heads of state from more than 100 countries, as well as many important figures in the world. Its excellent service is highly appreciated by guests both from home and abroad.

The unique layout of the hotel gains it credit: the three blocks of European-style towers of the hotel, together with the two landscaped gardens, present a sense of harmony.

The Lobby of Jin Jiang Assembly Hall

The hotel features 515 guest rooms, including the exquisitely decorated presidential suites, deluxe suites and standard rooms, which are not only modern and spacious, but also comfortable.

Jin Jiang hotel has provided catering services since the 1930s. Over the more than 50 years, many experienced chefs have served here. They have, from time to time, been invited by the United States, Singapore and Hong Kong for performance and experience exchanges. The hotel's restaurants, concentrated mainly in the North Building, serve a whole range of cuisine.

The recently renovated Jin Jiang Guest Tower features 28 well-furnished rooms combining both modern and traditional European design, making the hotel top the list of its class in Shanghai. The building's 72 detached apartments enjoy a quiet and comfortable environment, which makes you feel at home.

The Jin Jiang Assembly Hall, where the historic Sino-US Joint Communiqué was signed when Nixon visited China in 1972, re-opened in September after renovation. The European-style outlook of the building converts it into one of the most popular scenic spots inside the Jin Jiang Garden. The new Jin Jiang Assembly Hall is equipped with function halls, banquet halls and conference rooms, all installed with hi-tech facilities, which makes it an ideal international conference centre. Besides, the hall is also complemented with a fitness room, sauna, bowling alleys, swimming pool and car park.

The well-equipped Jin Jiang Hotel is not only a luxurious hotel, but a business centre and a shopping arcade. Jin Jiang Hotel — your ideal business stopover in Shanghai.

The North Building of the Jin Jiang Hotel

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Tianjin China Golden World Group — Zhongjin Pharmaceutical Factory

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Tianjin Zhongjin Pharmaceutical Factory, a subsidiary enterprise of Tianjin Golden World Group, is a high-tech enterprise equipped with advanced and modernised facilities. It engages mainly in producing Vitamin B1 (with an annual production of 1,200 tons), Piracetam (300 tons), Sodium Diclofenate (50 tons) and Thiamphenicol (60 tons). In which VB_1 is based on the USP 23 and the BP 93 standards.

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董事長兼總經理 The Chairman and President : 宋富智 Song Fu Zhi　電子郵件 E-mail : Jinshi@mail.tjgl.com.cn

Shanghai Light Industrial International (Group) Corporation Limited

REMOVAL NOTICE

We are delighted to inform you that **Shanghai Light Industrial International (Group) Corp., Ltd.** headquarter and its subsidiary companies have moved to the New Address:

Shanghai Light Industrial International Tower 160 Si Ping Road, Shanghai 200080 China
Tel: 0086-21-6508 1688 Fax: 0086-21-6508 2388
E-mail: sligroup@guomai.sh.cn Web site: http://www.shanghailight.com

Notes : Shanghai Light Industrial Imp. & Exp. Corp., Ltd. and its subsidiary companies keep its original
Address : 209 Yuanmingyuan Rd., Shanghai 200002 China
Tel: 0086-21-6321 6858 Fax: 0086-21-6329 0632 Telex: 33054 INDUS CN

Shanghai Light Industrial International Group 555 Stainless Steel Products Corp., Ltd.
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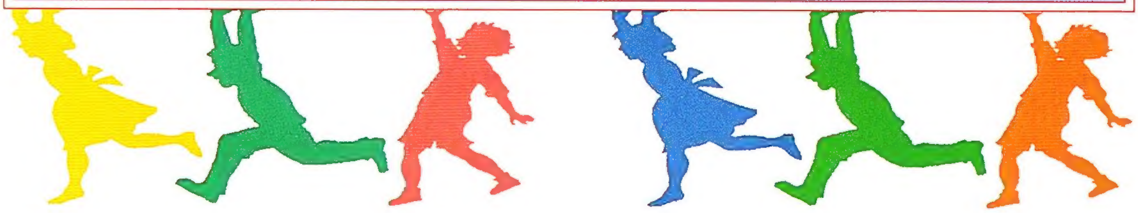

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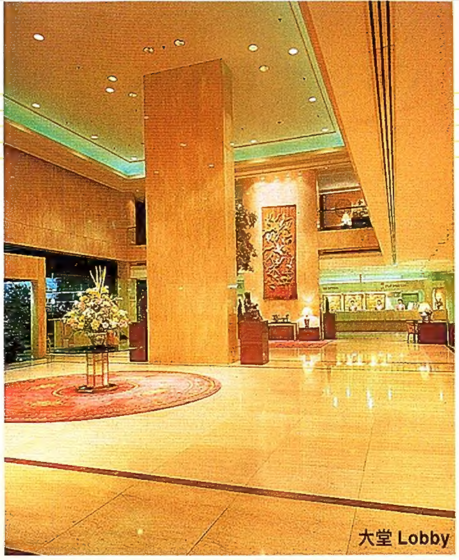
大堂 Lobby

中餐廳 Restaurant

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Apart from 526 International class guest rooms, this awarding winning designed hotel also encompasses a unique 9-storey office, shopping complex, food & beverage outlets, extensive recreation facilities and among the largest banquet facilities in Shanghai.

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上海国际贵都大饭店
hotel Equatorial
SHANGHAI

上海國際貴都大飯店座落於上海市商業中樞，徒步可至上海展覽中心和各主要的商務、旅遊區。

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豪華客房 Deluxe Room

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電傳：33948 EQUAT CN
電子郵件：equatsha@public.sta.net.cn

Add : 65 Yanan Road West, Shanghai
200040, People's Republic of China
Tel : (86 - 21) 6248 1688
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BEAUTIFYING LIFE AND CHALLENGE TO THE FUTURE WITH ZHEJIANG ARTS AND CRAFTS

ZHEJIANG
ARTS & CRAFTS

浙江省工藝品進出口公司，連續7年被國家列為500家進出口額最大的企業之一，是一個成功的企業。

浙江省是全國工藝品重點產區。浙江省工藝品進出口公司組建於1981年，在充滿變幻和艱辛的市場競爭中，“浙江工藝”以其雄厚的實力和堅韌不拔的信心，取得了輝煌的成績！

“浙江工藝”經營：抽紗品、禮品、服裝、床上用品、特藝品、日用工藝品、手套、鞋帽、藺草製品、草麻製品、箱包、手袋玩具、古今家具、竹柳製品、傘等等。

“浙江工藝”擁有一支年富力強，精通國際貿易、勇於開拓和進取的專業人才隊伍，員工的創業和敬業精神，使公司充滿生機，推動了公司向綜合性、多元化、集團化、國際化目標邁進。

“浙江工藝”恪守“重合同、守信用”的貿易原則，以高效和熱誠為國內外客戶服務。

ZHEJIANG ARTS AND CRAFTS IMPORT AND CRAFTS CORP is a successful enterprise by ranking herself constantly for the last 7 years among the top 500 enterprises of import and export in China.

Zhejiang Province is the key area manufacturing arts and crafts in China. Zheijiang Arts and Crafts Import and Export Corp was established in 1981. In the unpredictable and fierce market competition, Zhejiang Arts achieves a brilliant success with her solid strength and indomitable confidence.

Zhejiang Arts manufactures and exports many items such as drawn-work and embroidery, gifts, garments, home-textile, native handicrafts, daily-use arts and crafts, gloves and mittens, headwear and footwear, igusa straw products, straw and sisal products, handbags and luggages, toys, traditional furnitures, modern furnitures, bamboo and willow products, umbrellas, etc..

Zhejiang Arts has a large number of professional staff - young and vigorous, well experienced in international trade, aggressive and progressive. With the creative and professional spirits of the staff, the company is in its prime and full of vigor. She forges ahead towards her target of a comprehensive, multi-marketing, grouping and internationalizing enterprise.

Zhejiang Arts offers good service to her customers both at home and abroad with her sincerity and efficiency in accordance with the principle of highly respecting the contracts and keeping the promise.

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Fax : 0086 - 571 - 7063838 E-mail : zjart@public.hz.zj.cn Contact Person : Tianen Lei

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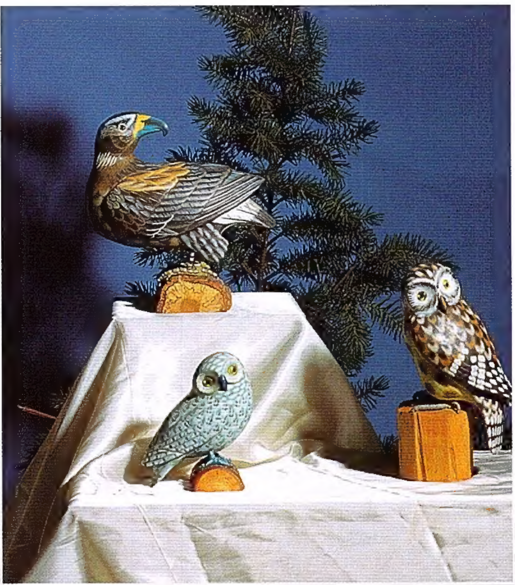

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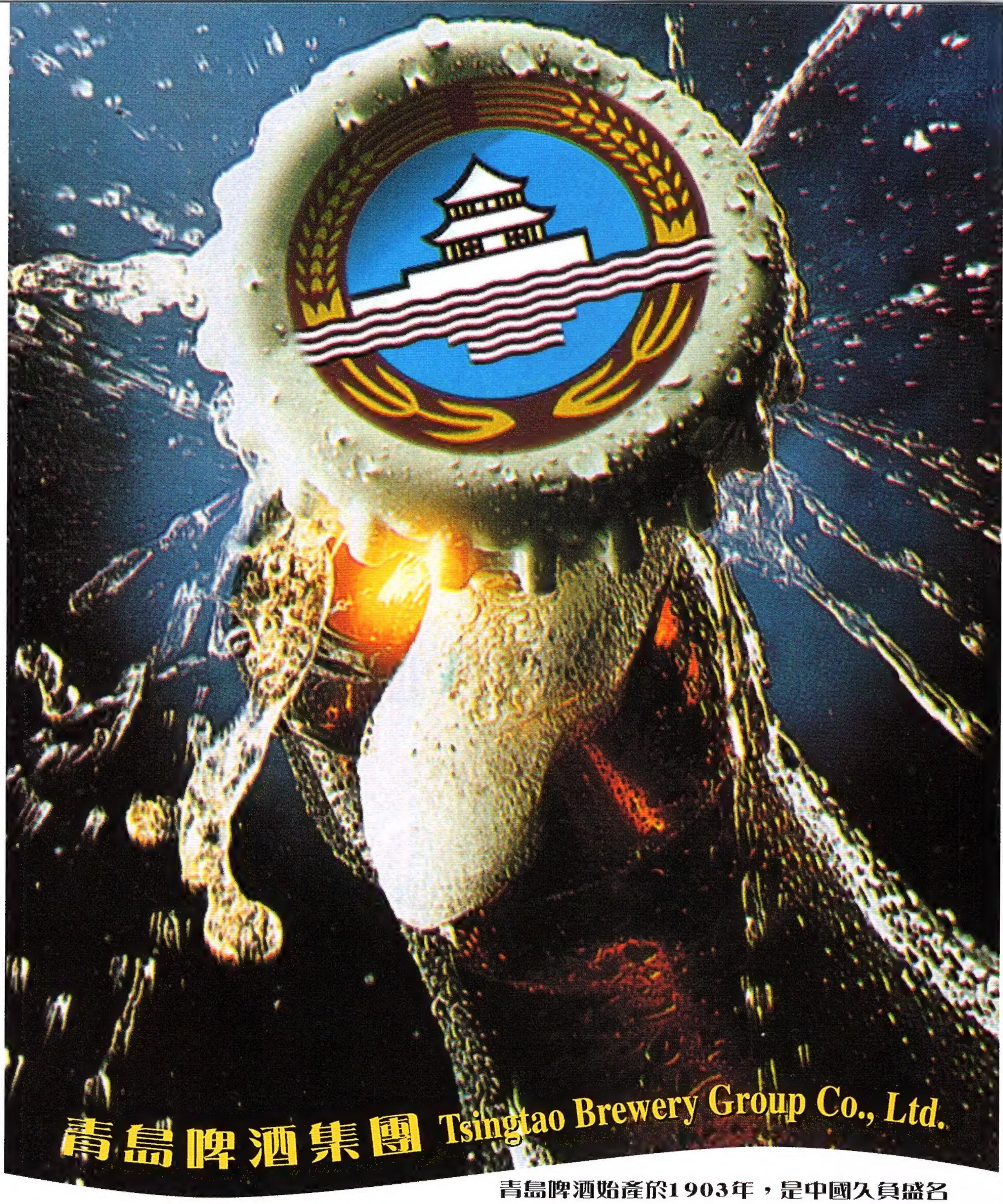

青島啤酒集團 Tsingtao Brewery Group Co., Ltd.

青島啤酒始產於1903年，是中國久負盛名的名牌產品，中國啤酒唯一“馳名商標”，素以泡沫潔白細膩、色澤清亮、香醇爽口、持久挂杯而馳譽中外，曾七次榮獲國家金獎，三次在美國國際評酒會上榮獲冠軍獎。一九五四年出口，現已暢銷30多個國家和地區。

Tsingtao Beer was first brewed in 1903 and has been a well-known product ever since. It's now the only most renowned national brand in China's brewing industry.

It is famous both at home and abroad for its crystal clarity, snow-white fine foams with prolonged adhesion to the glass and its refreshing mellow taste.

Tsingtao Beer has been awarded the national gold medals seven times and the championship prizes three times in the international wine appraisals held in the United States.

Tsingtao Beer has been exporting since 1954 and presently it is salable in more than 30 countries and regions

TSINGTAO
青島啤酒
Since 1903

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郵編 Postcode : 266071 電話 Tel : 0532 - 5711575 傳真 Fax : 0532 - 5714719 網址 Web Site : www.tsingtaobeer.com.cn

China
CHINA TOURISM

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Cover: Shanghai's new landmark (by Xie Guanghui)

FEATURES

18 Shanghai: A Happy Blend of Old and New

Photos & article by Xie Guanghui

Shanghai is an enchanting city where the old blends happily with the new. Walking on the banks of the Huangpu River, you see old-style Western buildings on the Bund and modern high-rises in Pudong on the opposite side of the river. Rapid development has brought the city to a sort of dilemma: while old mahjong players still enjoy their carefree life in the old, narrow alleys, the younger generation is eager to move out to new apartment buildings. The international metropolis is multi-cultural, too: while local opera and comic shows are staged at the many popular theatres, symphonies and ballets are performed at the Great Opera House. On Nanjing Road, its commercial street, you can find a Western suit of any world famous brand, as well as a best tailored *qipao*, the Manchu dress. Shanghai provides a rich nightlife. There are cafes where customers can get connected on the Internet while having a cup of coffee, disco clubs, in addition to the nostalgic jazz bar in the Peace Hotel...

58 A World of Snow in Summer — Impressions of Bogda Peak

Photos by Song Shijing Article by Jin Wei, Song Shijing

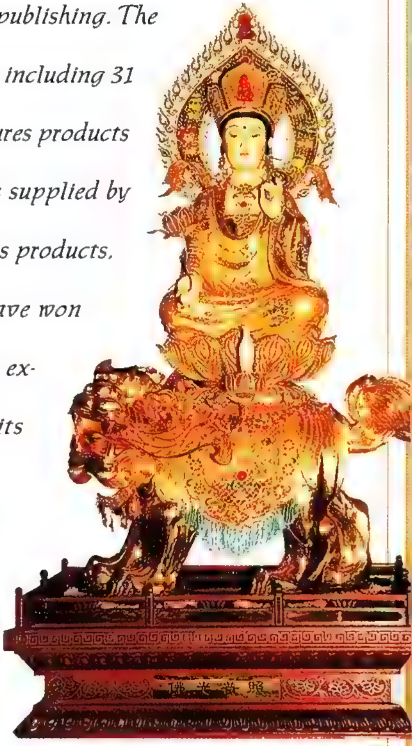
The Bogda Peak in Xinjiang is a great attraction to both tourists and mountaineers. In the area surrounding the perennially snow-covered peak, there are captivating peaks, canyons, glaciers, oases, deserts, forests and grasslands. Not long ago three Hong Kong mountaineers became lost while climbing the peak. Through this story, the authors also hope to express their deepest sympathies to the families of the lost mountaineers.

ORIENTAL TREASURES
– The Best of Chinese Art

Lacquer plate with hollowed carving of flowers

Beijing Gongmei Group specializes in arts and crafts but it is also a company involved in scientific research, marketing, education and publishing. The group owns over 60 industrial and commercial enterprises, including 31 joint ventures and five trade agencies abroad. It manufactures products according to clients' samples or designs, or using materials supplied by clients, and also conducts compensation trade. Over 50 of its products, including special handicrafts, carpets and artwork have won either international or domestic awards. It imports and exports 10,000 commodity lines in 60 categories and its products are sold to 130 countries and regions.

Beijing Gongmei Group aims to make a better world.



Business Scope:

Artworks, carpets, ornaments, special handicrafts, metal arts & crafts, scientific & educational instruments, real estate, commerce & trade, out-door decorations, tourism services, publishing and education

Going to the River at Spring Time, a gorgeous embroidery work based on the theme of an ancient Chinese painting

北京工美集團總公司
BEIJING GONGMEI GROUP CORPORATION

地址：中國北京朝陽區和平里南口磚角樓
Address: Zhuanjiao Lou, Hepingli South, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China
郵編 (Postcode): 100013　電話 (Tel): 64207060　傳真 (Fax): 64207049
聯系人：李 由、張宏偉　Enquiries to: Li You, Zhang Hongwei
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China
CHINA TOURISM

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No. 221 December 1998

66 Big Gate Crabs of Yangcheng Lake

Photos & article by Wu Shan

When autumn deepens, crabs mature. The Big Gate Crab cultivated in the Yangcheng Lake in East China's Jiangsu Province is the most delicious and most famous freshwater crab is China. This report reveals the lives of the crab growers and gives tips on how to choose and eat the Big Gate Crab.

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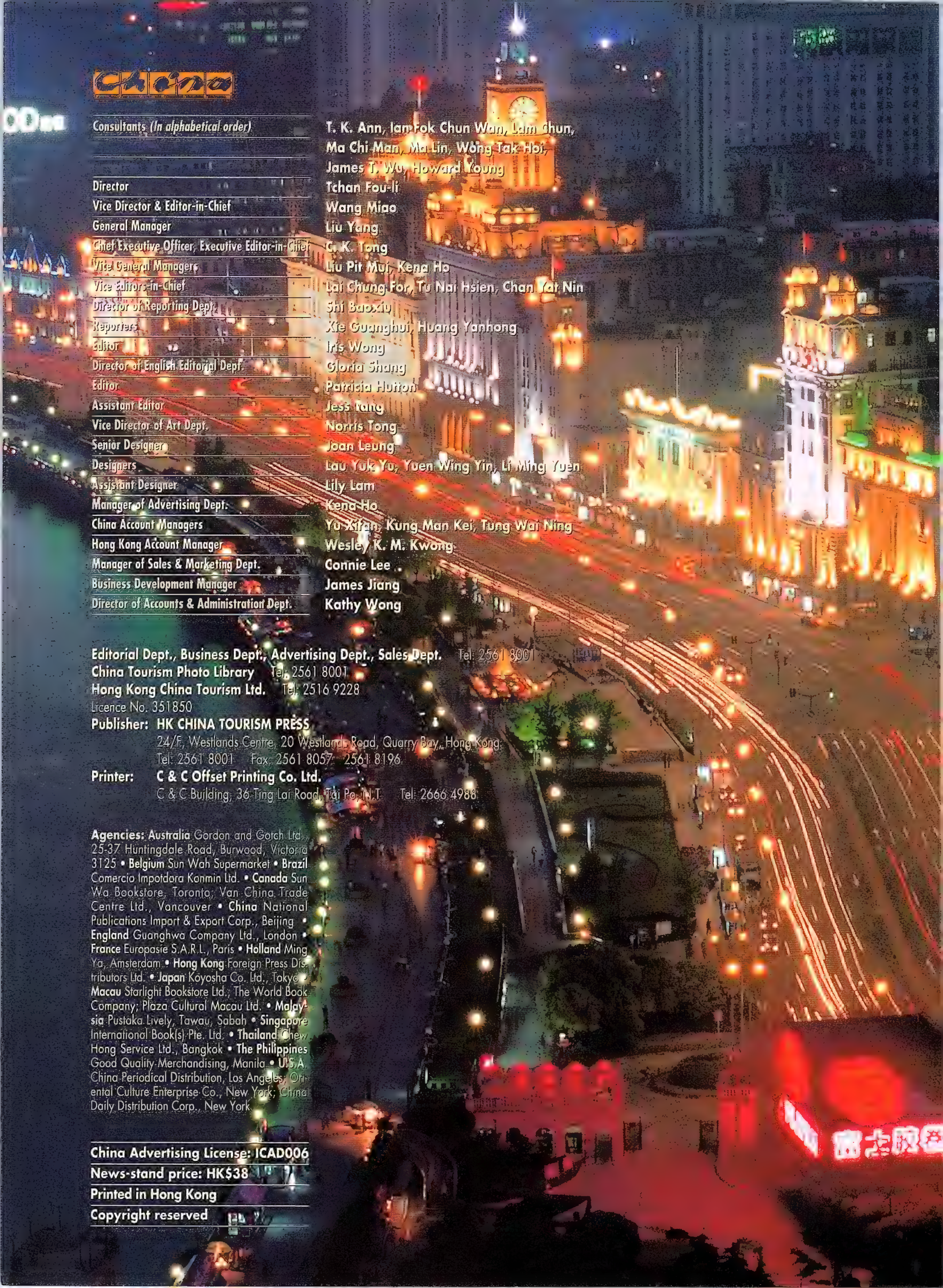

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Consultants *(In alphabetical order)*	T. K. Ann, Iam Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun, Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi, James T. Wu, Howard Young
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FROM THE EDITOR

When talking about cities in China, it is impossible to leave out Shanghai, one of the most prosperous and sophisticated cities in the world. This important metropolis, once was known as the "sleepless city", has taken on an entirely new look now. The ever-changing city magically combines both nostalgia and modernity, oriental appeal and Western flavour. From a new angle, our reporter rediscovered the quintessence of Shanghai, fascinating you with its varied faces. If you can leave your daily routine behind for a few days, why don't you go to Shanghai for some fresh air at the Bund?

It is now also the season for savouring fresh water crabs. The crabs from Yangcheng Lake in East China's Jiangsu Province are graded the top of their kind. Coming personally to Yangcheng Lake, you will be surprised by the many peculiarities of this shellfish. Moreover, it is definitely a distinctive experience to taste the crab right beside the lake where it was caught.

The Bogda Peak in Xinjiang is a great attraction to both tourists and mountaineers. It is undoubtedly risky to attempt to scramble up the perennially snow-covered peak. Yet, the mountainous area of Bogda Peak allures explorers from all over the world with its captivating peaks, canyons, glaciers, oases, deserts, forests and grasslands. Not long ago, three Hong Kong people became lost while trying to conquer the Bogda Peak. Through the special feature in this issue, we also would like to express our sorrow for the mountaineers' deaths and our deepest sympathies to their families.

Photo by Xie Guanghui

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春 *Forecast Spring*

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CONTACT PERSON : CHEN LINGYU
ADDRESS : 91, BAIXIA ROAD, NANJING, CHINA
聯系人：陳玲玉　地址：中國南京市白下路91號
ZIP CODE 郵編：210001　TEL 電話：025 - 4691099
FAX 傳真：025 - 4572567　E-MAIL 電子郵件：jsknit@pub.jlonline.com

Ancient Plank Road Along the Yellow River

In Central China, along the Yellow River, archaeologists have unearthed the ruins of a plank road, along with salt warehouses and a ferry crossing from over 1,100 years ago. The ancient plank road, found in Xin'an County, Henan Province, stretches 4,000 metres from east to west on both sides of the Yellow River. Traces of ancient boat trackers and towropes are readily discernible, and it is believed that the water surface of the Yellow River at that time was about 10 metres higher than at present. The discovery of salt warehouses some 12 kilometres west of the Xiaolangdi Reservoir on the Yellow River reveals that the river was an important route for salt transportation in ancient times.

Tea Centre, Hangzhou

The Tea Culture Exchange Centre will soon open in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang Province. This is the second phase of the project of the Chinese Tea Museum. Located on the southern slopes of Jiqing Hill near the West Lake, the US$3.4-million-centre is for promoting international exchanges in the area of tea culture.

Big Nature Park Planned in Yunnan

The world's biggest nature park has been envisioned in Southwest China's Yunnan Province. The park, which will be a joint venture of the Yunnan provincial government and the American Nature Protection Association, will cover 66,000 square kilometres, more than twice the size of the Yellow Stone National Park in the United States.

Three rivers run through the area: the Jinsha River which becomes the Yangtse River, and the Nujiang and Lancang rivers. At one point, these three rivers rush southward side by side for 75 kilometres. More than a dozen ethnic groups live in the area, including the Naxi people, whose hometown, Lijiang, has been declared a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Each of the Chinese and American sides will commit US$5 million to this project in the next three years.

New Highway, Guangzhou

A new eight-lane highway with a bridge across the Pearl River in Guangzhou has been put into service to ease the heavy traffic in the city and around the Pearl River Delta. The highway links the provincial capital of Guangdong with Shenzhen and Zhuhai, two special economic zones, and other surrounding cities such as Zhongshan, Shunde, Dongguan and Panyu. It also makes journeys between Guangzhou and Hong Kong and Macau more convenient.

Light Rail to Be Built, Beijing

Beijing is going to build an 18-kilometre urban light rail in its northern suburbs. The rail will be connected with the city's Ring Line of subway at the terminals of Dongzhimen and Xizhimen. The light rail is designed to make commuting easier in the northwest, north and northeast parts of Beijing. Construction will begin before the end of this year and completed within three years.

Museum of Bronze Wares, Shaanxi

Baoji Bronze Wares Museum, reportedly the world's largest museum displaying ancient bronzes, has recently opened to public in Baoji, Shaanxi Province. The museum boasts a collection of 50,000 bronze wares, including 13 invaluable national treasures.

Baoji is one of the birthplaces of the Yellow River civilisation. It was an important settlement during the Zhou and Qin dynasties in the Bronze Age. The city today provides tourists with many places of historical interest.

Display of Top Monk's Sarira, Taiwan

Sarira of the famous Tang-dynasty Monk Xuan Zang will be displayed in Taiwan. Xuan Zang was a high monk who was assigned by the imperial court to go to India to study Buddhism and bring back a complete set of Buddhist sutras. He made great contributions in introducing Buddhism to China. His sarira (bone ashes) is currently housed in the Linggu Temple in Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu Province.

Scenic Spots Not Affected by Flood, Hunan

Despite the serious flooding of the Yangtse River in the past summer, most scenic spots in Hunan Province, in the middle reaches of the river, remain unaffected. Tourist attractions, such as Changsha, Shaoshan, Zhangjiajie and Mt. Hengshan are open as usual. Transportation facilities are also operating normally, including the airports in Changsha and Zhangjiajie, and the Beijing-Guangzhou and Zhizhou-Liuzhou railways. The Human Tourism Administration announced that it is safe to visit the province, and that the welcome will be ever warmer.

HONG KONG

Mainland Train Groups Travel Easy

Several big tourist groups of 500-700 people arrived in Hong Kong by train in the past summer, bringing in vitality to the current slump in tourism. These are part of the new programmes organised by the Hong Kong China Travel Service. Tourists took special trains from either Beijing or Xi'an for a five-day trip in Hong Kong. The first Beijing group consisted of professors, lecturers, and social workers from more than 50 higher learning institutes, including Qinghua University, Chinese People's University, Beijing Normal University and Beijing Politics and Law University.

Amazingly, this big group was able to pass through the border's exit and entry gates very quickly. As agreed, travel documents were sent to the Shenzhen border inspection office one day ahead of schedule; and on the Hong Kong side, more checking desks were opened. Each big group was divided into three smaller ones so that they could tour major scenic spots through different routes.

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NEPAL

The Polluted Mount Qomolangma

Many people dream of conquering Mount Qomolangma, the highest peak in the world. In fact, the mountain is now "conquered" by an awesome amount of rubbish left behind by the explorers: more than 67,000 empty bottles, the equivalent of 33.5 tons of glass, have been dumped in this mountainous region, of which 80 per cent are beer bottles and cans. The rest of the rubbish consists of vodka and rum bottles, soft drink cans and even jam jars.

It has been a real headache for Nepal's government to clean Mount Qomolangma. When this arduous task is carried out, 16 helicopters will be used, which may cost a total of 360,000 Hong Kong dollars (US$45,000).

A piece of advice for travellers and tourists planning to visit Mount Qomolangma: it is our responsibility to keep the environment clean!

BRITAIN

'Visiting' the British Museum at Home

If you have a profound interest in historical relics, but cannot spare the time for a trip at the moment, there is good news for you: you can now enjoy yourself in the British Museum in the leisure of your own home.

What we are talking about is the homepage of the British Museum (http://www.british-museum.ac.uk/index.html), which offers a wealth of information on some 6.5 million exhibits arranged in different categories, some complete with pictures. In other words, you can now indulge yourself in this fine collection sitting right in front of your own personal computer.

The homepage also keeps you updated on news concerning the museum's latest exhibits.

HONG KONG

Curing Transit Passengers' Boredom

Transit passengers often suffer from acute boredom waiting for hours in an airport. Now the Hong Kong Tourist Association, together with the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and a tourist bus company, is offering a special bus tour route to cater for transit passengers at the Hong Kong International Airport. Taking the MTR train from the airport, the passengers get off at Kowloon Station, from where tourist buses await to take them to scenic spots such as the Wong Tai Sin Temple, new Kowloon City Park and the New World Centre at the harbour front. Tourists can choose any stop to alight, and take the next bus to continue the journey by showing their tour badge. Those with limited time can just go with the bus for a general survey of the scenery en route; the tour takes about one and a half hours. Bus service hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; charge: HKD 120 per person, including MTR fare, bus fare and a guidebook. The tour desk is in the airport lobby opposite Arrival Gate B.

MYANMAR

Don't Burn Your Feet

Myanmar is a Buddhist country and every visitor going into a temple or a pagoda has to take off their shoes and socks — not by the doorway, but a dozen metres away from the sacred area. Walking bare-footed on the long, sun-scorched path is not particularly fun, and travellers to Myanmar are advised to prepare themselves for this "sacred suffering".

GUANGZHOU

Huangpu Military School Welcomes Vacationers

For those who are tired of ordinary scenic or entertainment tours, the Huangpu Military School in Guangzhou is an alternative choice, where you can stay a few days as a soldier, visiting this historical spot, attending military training and following other activities.

The former Huangpu Military School is a historical site under state protection. It trained many commanders and played an important role during the democratic revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the 1920s. The Military Training School for Young People located there welcomes people from Hong Kong and Macau, students in particular, to visit and attend training programmes such as marching, shooting and martial arts.

LONDON

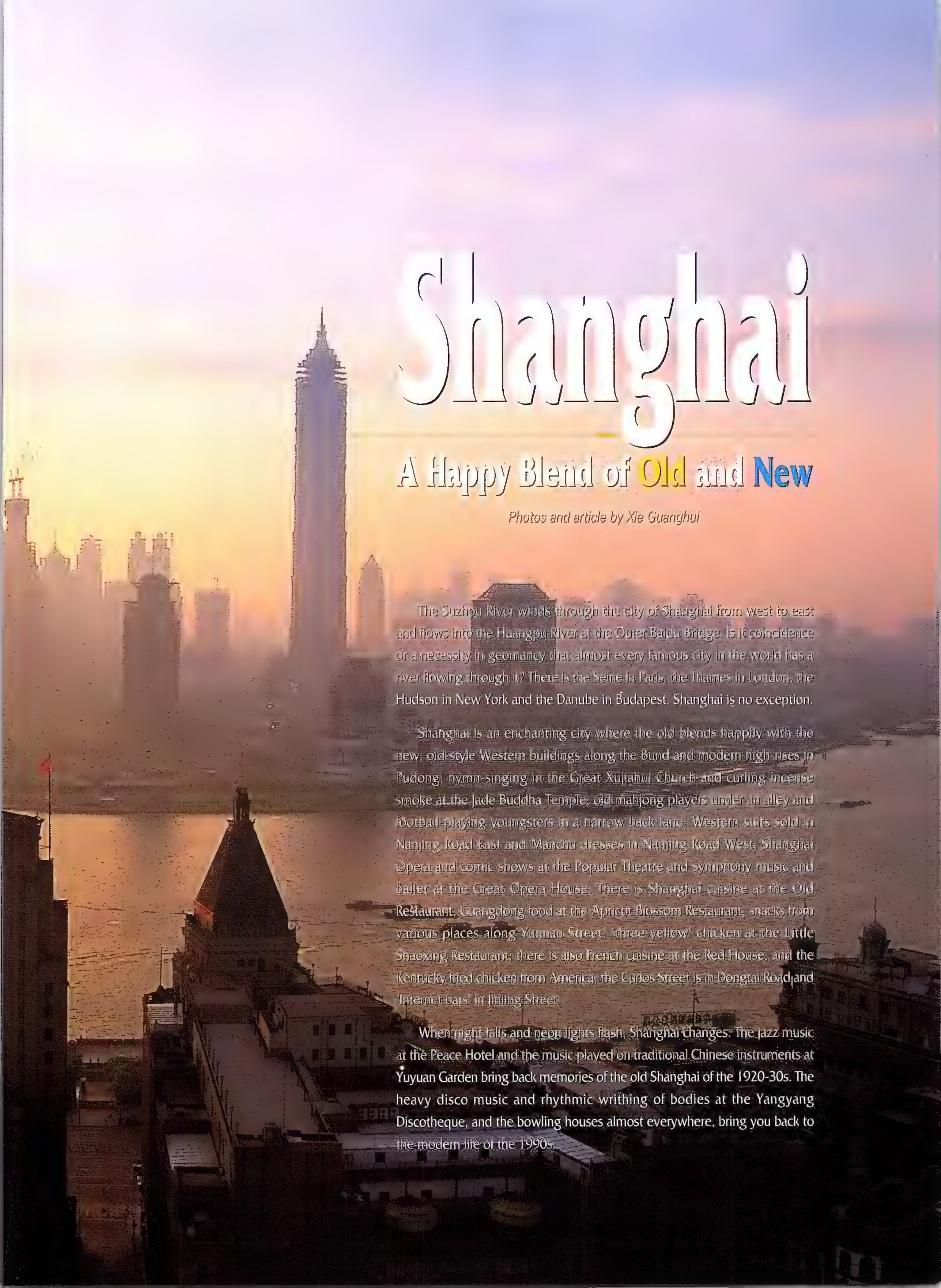
Tracing the Footprints of Princess Diana

Princess Diana, who passed away one year ago, remains very much alive in many people's memory. Regarding this, a travel agency in London has launched a new programme named "Diana's London" to attract tourists. The itinerary covers spots which used to be related to the late Princess of Wales: Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey, the kindergarten where she worked before marrying Prince Charles, the fitness centre she always patronised, Eton College where Prince William, her elder son, is studying, and Harrods, the luxurious department store run by the father of her boyfriend, Dodi Al Fayed. Part of the route of Diana's hearse is also included in the itinerary. Anyone interested should contact the British Travel Bureau in London. The fee for a one-day trip is about 250 Hong Kong Dollars (US$32).

BEIJING

The Reappearance of the Yuanmingyuan Garden

It is generally known that the Yuanmingyuan Garden in Beijing, considered to be the quintessence of Chinese imperial gardens, was reduced to ashes by the Anglo-French Allied Army and the Eight-Power Allied Forces in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Nevertheless, in today's computerised world, you do not have to travel back in time to appreciate the glamour of this "Garden of Gardens". There is now a website showing the garden as it used to be (http://www.cc.ubc.ca/spider/wang/ymyc 01.htm). The design and decor of the complex, as well as its precious collection, reappear in 3-D with the help of advanced computer technology and CD ROM facilities.



Shanghai

A Happy Blend of Old and New

Photos and article by Xie Guanghui

The Suzhou River winds through the city of Shanghai from west to east and flows into the Huangpu River at the Outer Baidu Bridge. Is it coincidence or a necessity in geomancy that almost every famous city in the world has a river flowing through it? There is the Seine in Paris, the Thames in London, the Hudson in New York and the Danube in Budapest. Shanghai is no exception.

Shanghai is an enchanting city where the old blends happily with the new: old-style Western buildings along the Bund and modern high-rises in Pudong; hymn-singing in the Great Xujiahui Church and curling incense smoke at the Jade Buddha Temple; old mahjong players under an alley and football-playing youngsters in a narrow back lane; Western suits sold in Nanjing Road East and Manchu dresses in Nanjing Road West; Shanghai Opera and comic shows at the Popular Theatre and symphony music and ballet at the Great Opera House. There is Shanghai cuisine at the Old Restaurant, Guangdong food at the Apricot Blossom Restaurant, snacks from various places along Yunnan Street, "three-yellow" chicken at the Little Shaoxing Restaurant; there is also French cuisine at the Red House, and the Kentucky fried chicken from America; the Curios Street is in Dongtai Road and 'Internet bars' in Jinling Street.

When night falls and neon lights flash, Shanghai changes. The jazz music at the Peace Hotel and the music played on traditional Chinese instruments at Yuyuan Garden bring back memories of the old Shanghai of the 1920-30s. The heavy disco music and rhythmic writhing of bodies at the Yangyang Discotheque, and the bowling houses almost everywhere, bring you back to the modern life of the 1990s.

1

3

4

Previous page: A distant view of Pudong in Shanghai in the early morning
1. High-rises in the Pudong Development Area in Shanghai
2. China is a kingdom of bicycles; Shanghai is a kingdom within this kingdom.
3. Company office buildings — Shanghai has become a hot spot for investment.
4. Early morning exercises, such as the Fan Dance on the Bund, have become an attraction.
5. Pudong Park's lovely green lawns

5

1

2

1. A hair stylist doing a model's hair for the Shanghai International Fashion Festival.
2. The newly completed Jinmao Mansion which is 88 storeys and 420 metres high has replaced the Diwang Mansion in Shenzhen as China's tallest building.
3. Western style weddings with photography and videotaping in parks has become a new trend.
4. A business woman in Shanghai tackles business calls when dancing a [illegible].
5. The glass and masonry of Shanghai's tall buildings is handled with the greatest of care.

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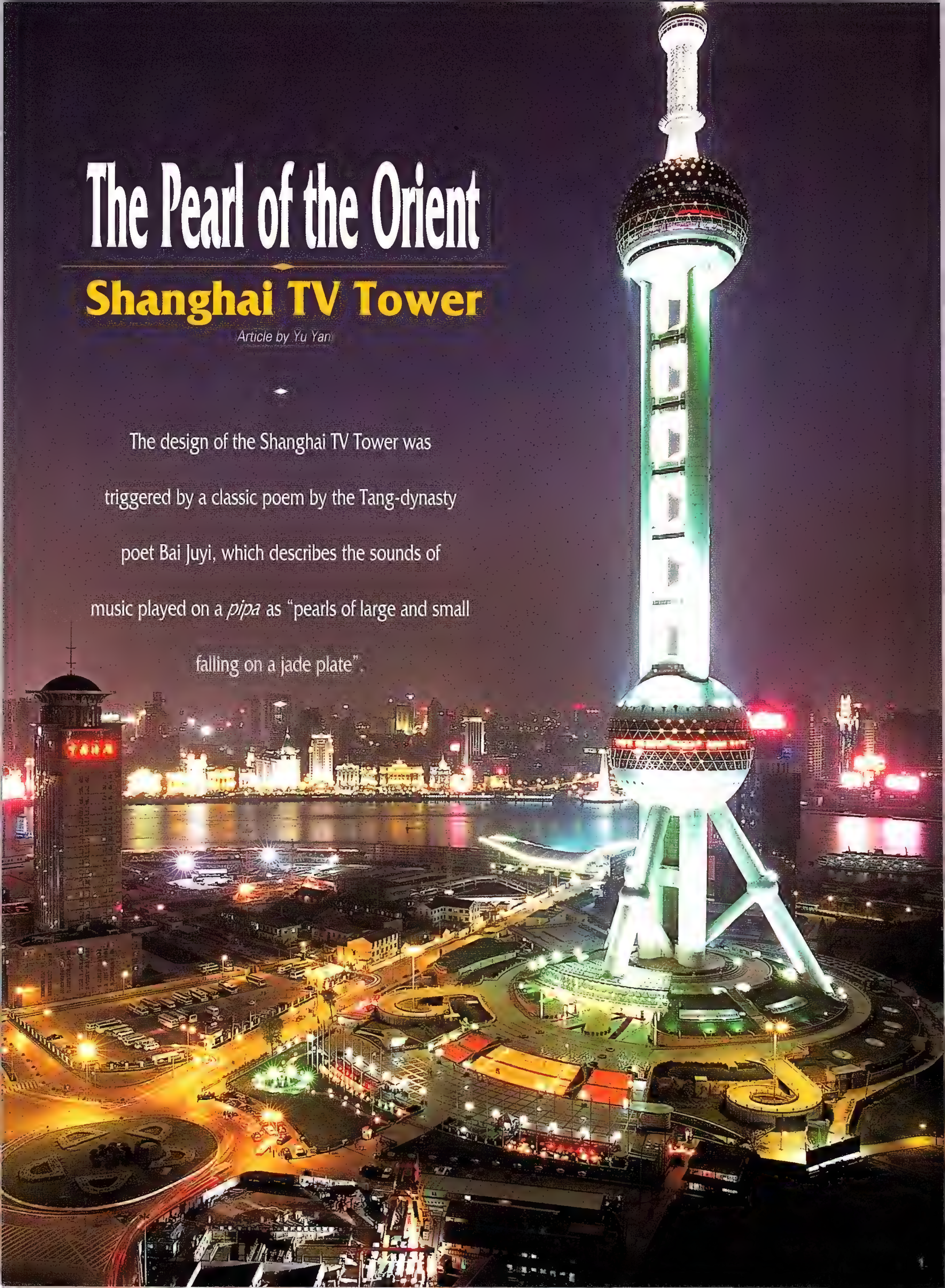
The Pearl of the Orient

Shanghai TV Tower

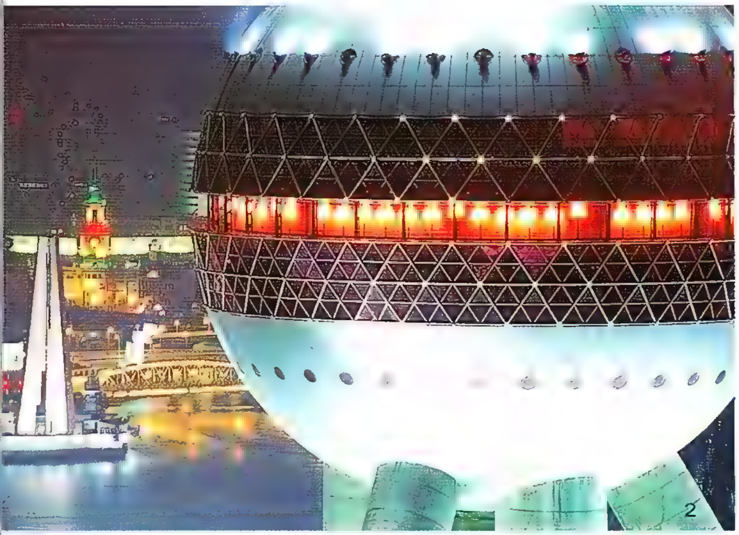
Article by Yu Yan

◆

The design of the Shanghai TV Tower was triggered by a classic poem by the Tang-dynasty poet Bai Juyi, which describes the sounds of music played on a *pipa* as "pearls of large and small falling on a jade plate".



The Pearl of the Orient — Shanghai TV Tower



The Pearl of the Orient, the Shanghai TV Tower in Pudong, has become an unchallenged landmark structure of Shanghai and the city's hottest tourist attraction. Since its opening in November 1994, the Pearl of the Orient has had 5.6 million visitors, and the Space Cabin alone has had nearly half a million visitors. More than 90 Chinese leaders and foreign heads of state have visited the tower. The record number of visitors in a single day stands at 18,000. The TV tower has developed into a comprehensive, multi-functional tourist attraction that combines sightseeing, catering, lodging, tours, shopping and amusements into one.

Located in Pudong by the banks of the Huangpu River, the glittering 468-metre-high TV tower stands out against the broad streets, the 22 tall buildings housing financial establishments, including the 88-storey Jinmao Mansion, the 95-storey International Financial Centre (the world's tallest building when completed), and the 100,000-square-metre Central Green.

No-one would have thought that the design of this Asia's first and the world's third ultra-modern TV tower was inspired by a line in "Song of the Pipa", a poem in which Tang-dynasty poet Bai Juyi described the music played on the pipa lute as "pearls large and small falling on a jade plate". From the base of the tower, you can clearly see the 11 large and small spheres shining in the sunlight. The three large "pearls" form the tower's upper and lower regions and the Space Amusement Centre. An elevator takes only 45 seconds to reach the Sightseeing Platform at 263 metres on the upper sphere, which is 45 metres in diameter. Through the glass panes of the revolving restaurant, you can have a full view of the greater Shanghai. The Huangpu River is like a silk ribbon winding its way past the TV tower; the Pudong Park like a glistening plate of green jade; and the great Nanpu and Yangpu bridges spanning the Huangpu River like two rainbows. On a fine day, even the distant Chongming Island outside the mouth of the Yangtse River is in view.

The lower sphere of 50 metres diameter is the large Space Amusement Centre. Between the two large spheres are five smaller ones which, together with three others supported by columns outside, are the small "pearls". In each of these smaller spheres are suites and rooms of the Aerial Hotel. This hotel located at 140 to 230 metres above ground is the only one of its kind in China and a rarity in the world. The hotel is unusually quiet; the noise of the ground traffic, motor-horns and steam-whistles from ships are lost in the air below. Its giant windows offer a beautiful night view of the Huangpu River. Like a poem that says "From the summit of the tallest peak, all other mountains appear small", here hundreds of high-rises appear miniature and even Nanjing Road becomes a small alley. Staying in this hotel, one may feel as if one is sleeping "on a cloud" with the moon and stars drifting by.

The hotel's facilities are comparable to luxury hotels in the city. There are 20 rooms in the five spheres, all designed according to five-star hotel standards. To meet different requirements, there are luxury suites, luxury rooms and standard rooms priced at US$660, US$240 and US$110 a night respectively. A luxury suite has a master room, two standard rooms, a sightseeing room, exercise room, mini-bar, jacuzzi and all other necessary facilities. Each sphere has a set of high-pressure water pumps to ensure a 24-hour supply of cold and hot water.

To meet the increasing demand, another sightseeing elevator will be installed in the TV Tower. There are plans to build a film and TV exhibition hall at the base combining science and technology, amusements and exhibitions. The Shanghai History Museum will also move here. An aquarium, the most advanced in Asia, will also be built close by, where over 10,000 species of aquatic creatures will be on display. The Pearl of the Orient will certainly see an even brighter future.

1. **The Pearl of the Orient inspires people's imagination of shining pearls, large and small.**
2. **The largest spherical structure of the TV tower is the 90-metre-high Space Amusement Centre.**
3. **The confluence of the Suzhou and Huangpu rivers viewed from the 263-metre-high Sightseeing Platform of the TV Tower**

Internet Bars

The Latest Trend

Article by Yu Yan

◆

It is a place where you can get on the computer and browse the Internet while having a cup of coffee. In fact, toying with the computer is more important than drinking the coffee or wine here.

◆

Internet Bars — the Latest Trend

President Clinton stayed in Shanghai only for two short days during his visit to China in early July 1998, yet one of the items on his schedule was to visit an Internet coffee shop, which the Shanghai people call "Internet bar". At the 3C+T (for the English words: coffee, computer, communication and training), President Clinton saw the White House he had been away from for several days.

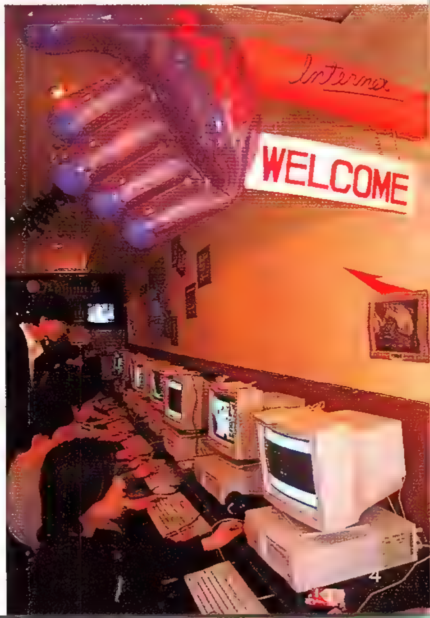
The name "Internet bar" implies a place where, in addition to drinking wine and coffee, one can get on the computer and browse the Internet. In fact, it is a place where toying with the computer is more important than drinking the coffee. Since not many Shanghai families have computers connected with networks and those who have are often discouraged by expensive charges and busy telephone lines, and since even most of the institutes of higher learning provide few Internet opportunities for their students, some clever opportunists have brought "Internet bars" into being. The Internet Coffee Bar at the intersection of Jinling and Guangxi roads was the first. In just over a year, a great number of large and small bars have blossomed in the city's central district. The 3C+T is one of the five or six bars of considerable size and scale.

Most of the visitors are office workers, university students and foreigners in Shanghai. Each bar has its "old customers", or frequent visitors. A student named Bao comes twice every week, where he and his friends obtain the latest of all kinds of information. To his parents, he has a good excuse to come to the bar — to improve his English on the computer. Ms. Zhang's boyfriend went to the other side of the Pacific for advanced studies a few months ago. The two agreed to speak on the phone every Saturday. Before a couple of months passed, they found that the long-distance telephone bills were formidable. Ms. Zhang is now a visitor to an Internet bar, where she can talk with her boyfriend on the Internet for only about 30 yuan an hour plus have her cup of coffee — a most satisfying solution.

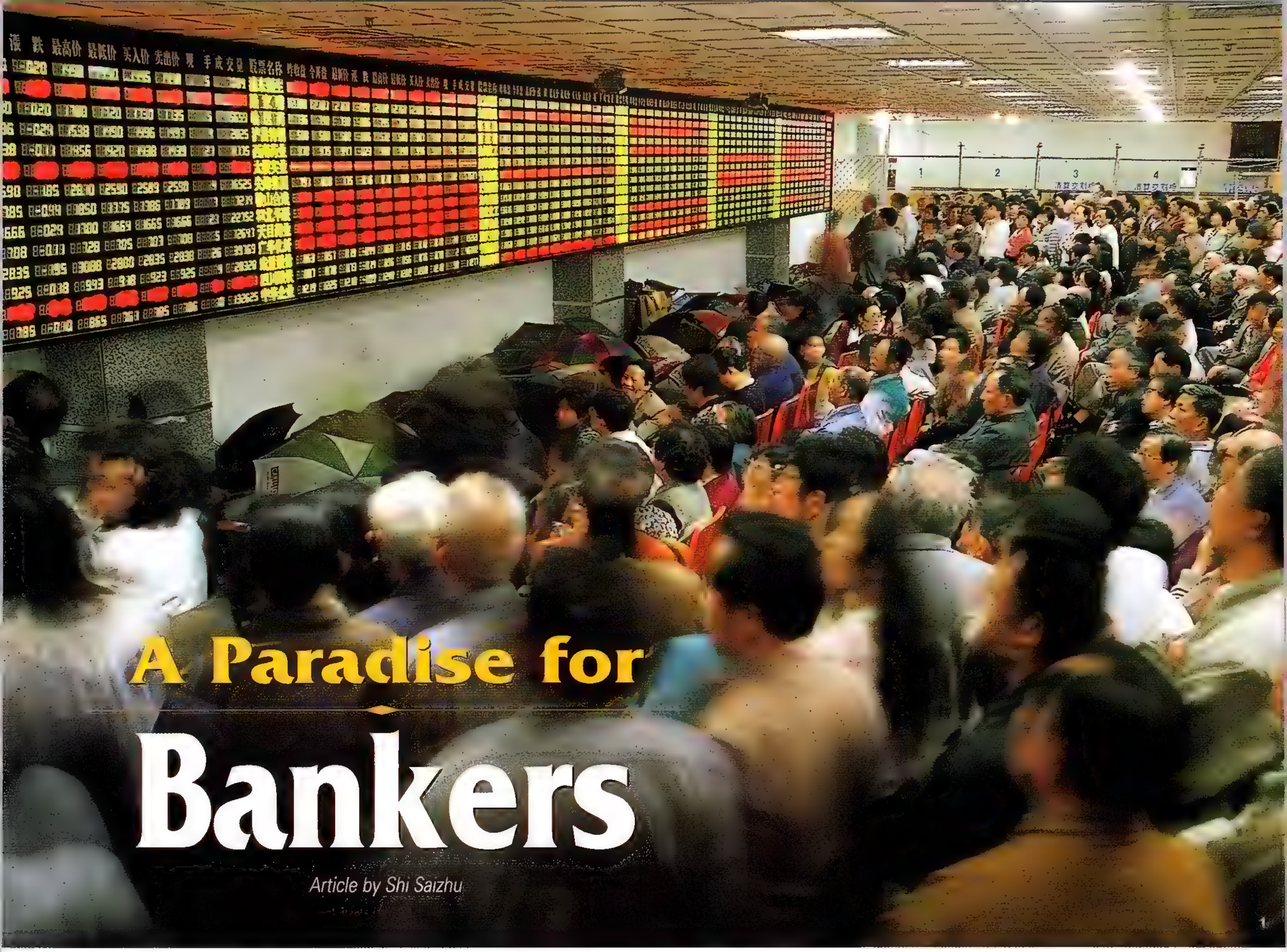
A student at Fudan University spent a whole year writing letters and sending faxes, trying to enrol in an American university, but did not succeed. One day, it suddenly occurred to him to visit an Internet bar. While light-heartedly drinking coffee, he searched for universities; beyond his wildest expectations, he received a notice for his enrolment at the University of California at Berkeley, with a scholarship. After the happy young man had departed for the United States, his girlfriend became a visitor to the Internet bar and soon joined him in California. Robert, a foreign teacher working in Shanghai, comes to the Internet bar almost every day. Like many other foreign residents and visitors in Shanghai, he has long found that visiting the Internet bar has at least two advantages: it is far less expensive than using the computer in a hotel and it is a good place to mix with the local Chinese.

The 3C+T opened its first branch in the Hongxiang Store on Nanjing Road not long ago, which was soon followed by a second on Orient Road in Pudong. In the following two years, a total of 20 3C+T bars will be opened in every corner of Shanghai, including in places near the universities far from the central district. Then, there will probably be a saying among people in Shanghai, "If you don't want to be left behind by the fast developing world, go and sit at an Internet bar!"

3



1. **Searching for information in an Internet bar is similar to what legendary clairvoyants did.**
2. **Visiting an Internet bar has become the latest trend for Shanghai people.**
3. **The Internet Café on Jinling Road is one of the earliest in Shanghai.**
4. **Entering an Internet bar, one seems to have entered a small village of the world.**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A Paradise for Bankers

Article by Shi Saizhu

◆

Walking southward from Outer Baidu Bridge, one will see financial signboards one after the other along the riverside — foreign banks and insurance companies as well as almost all of the Chinese banks and insurance companies — this is China's "Wall Street" on the Bund.

◆

The magnificent buildings in different architectural styles standing on the banks of the Huangpu River are impressive structures to Shanghai visitors. These banks, insurance companies and stock exchanges are the epitome of the prosperous finance industry in Shanghai.

Since the adoption of the opening-up policy, the financial market of Shanghai has progressed remarkably. In the early 1950s, there were only four branches of foreign banks remaining in Shanghai. Now, however, there are 59 branches and 160 representative offices of foreign financial institutions. Most of the financial institutions ranking among the first hundred in the world have set up branches in Shanghai, laying a strong foundation for rebuilding Shanghai's status as the financial centre of the Far East.

Pudong Shipping Building — Centre of Foreign Banks

The Huangpu River flows quietly through Shanghai; on its west bank, the Bund, one will see financial signboards one after another. They belong to the Citibank of America, ABN AMRO Bank NV, Bankers Alliance Insurance Ltd, as well as almost all the Chinese banks and insurance companies such as the Bank of China, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Construction Bank of China, Communications Bank of China, Guangda Bank and China Pacific Insurance Company. The most attractive is the new site of the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank at 12 on the Bund. This building was formerly the site of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the 1920s; later it became the office building of the municipal government of Shanghai. On its ground floor of nearly 10,000 square metres, now people can not only do financial business

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but also enjoy a collection of murals of the past 80 years... This is China's "Wall Street" on the Bund.

At Lujiazui on the opposite bank of Huangpu River is the new "Wall Street". Since foreign banks were permitted to do business in China's RMB currency, almost all the major international banks have come here. The Pudong Shipping Building, next door to the Shanghai branch of the Bank of China, has become the centre of foreign banks. In this 25-storey building are offices of eight banks from the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Belgium and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Shanghai has now the largest number of foreign banks and foreign companies in China.

407 Listed Companies in Shanghai

In December 1990, the Shanghai Stock Exchange opened for business in a handsome building on the Bund. Along with the further development of Pudong on the other side of the Huangpu River, the Shanghai Stock Exchange moved to this current building across the river. The exchange has undergone remarkable change, starting from eight stocks and increasing to the present 407 listed companies, with 446 A and B stocks. Last year its exchange value reached 1,000 billion yuan and its total of registered investors exceeds 17 million. The stocks of some companies, the Shanghai Petrochemical Industry for example, have been listed in the New York Stock Exchange. The first Chinese stock exchange institution since the 1950s, the Shanghai Stock Exchange also initiated China's first A and B stocks since that time.

Chinese Banks: Benefits in Shanghai

Shanghai is a "treasure land" where the financial and banking industry is the most active and profitable in China. At present all the state-run commercial banks, national banks and regional commercial banks have set up branches in Shanghai. The new businesses such as personal buying and selling of foreign exchange, and personal real estate mortgages all appeared first on the banks of the Huangpu River.

In recent years, the annual balance of loans in Shanghai is usually between 300-400 billion yuan and deposits increase 140 billion yuan each year. The large amounts of loans and capital have injected new blood into Shanghai's economic development; in return, Shanghai's prosperous and solid economy has also nurtured the growth of its financial industry. Shanghai banks' capital quality leads that of their counterparts in China and institutions here have become great profit-earners. Even foreign banks in Shanghai can earn a profit within one or two years, a rate higher than usual international standard. Shanghai is indeed the paradise of bankers.

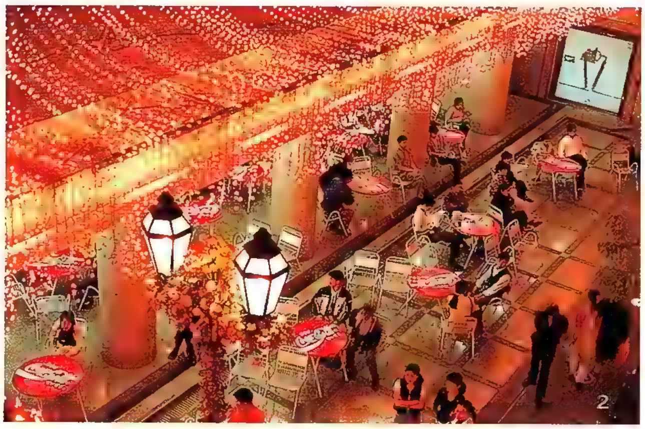
Translated by M. Q.

1. **At the noisy Shanghai Stock Exchange**
2. **Keeping up-to-date on stocks through newspapers**
3. **Checking stock prices on computers**
4. **Many foreign banks have opened branches in Pudong New Development Area.**
5. **The new Shanghai Stock Exchange Building in Pudong**

Night of Sparkling Lights in Shanghai

At dusk, when the sky turns purple, the bustling and noisy Shanghai begins to quiet down. With the load of heavy traffic mostly gone, the streets catch their breath as dust begins to settle. As night falls, the darkness seems to have obliterated the confusion of telephone poles and tree branches and Shanghai seems to have a new and elegant face. There is no more muddy water in the Huangpu River, only the colourful reflections of neon lights. The old Western-style buildings along the Bund, too, are given new vitality by bright floodlights. The orange street-lamps turn the concrete and steel overpass at Yan'an Road into a rainbow. Shanghai then appears in the leisurely and relaxed posture of a great metropolis.

Hengshan Street in the consulate district in southwest Shanghai is famous as the city's "street of bars". Shaded by trees during the day, it is one of the few streets in Shanghai where one can hear the chirping of birds. At night, the street sparkles with lights as the bars and coffee houses, such as the Bonny, Blue Hill and Modest Abode, become crowded with patrons. With the completion of houses on the Consulate Square, several dozen similar places have sprung up, with fancy names such as the Leisure on the Green Beverage House, Woods in a Fairyland, and Kevin, lining both sides of the street. Decorated in distinct and different styles emphasising quietude and nature, these bars have turned Hengshan Street into a very colourful and attractive place. Woods in a Fairyland has created the atmosphere of a fairy tale and Kevin is decorated in the European style, while the Leisure on the Green Beverage House has a countryside feeling. All the proprietors try to create a pastoral atmosphere in the noisy concrete and steel jungle so



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> Hengshan Street, shaded by trees in the day, sparkles at night with the colourful lights of its well-known bars, which all seemingly try to outshine each other.

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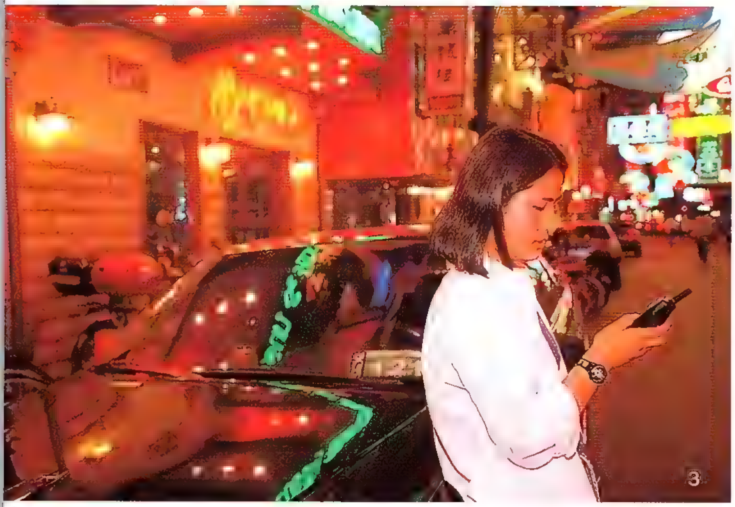

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that after a day's work people can relax in pleasant surroundings.

Money-Chest Karaoke Club

Other than the peaceful and elegant bars, karaoke has become very popular at night in Shanghai. There are at least 2,000 karaoke places in the city. The most influential one, however, is the Money-Chest Karaoke Club, which has opened three branches in three years, each new one larger than the previous. Dimly lit karaoke rooms elsewhere often give people bad impressions associated with sex and scandalous behaviour. But the Money-Chest Karaoke Club is different; walking into the lobby of its branch in Luwan District, one is impressed by its smooth marble floor, bright lights and young male attendants. Inside a karaoke room, the bright ceiling lights enhance the computer-reproduced famous European and American paintings on the walls. Even the rest rooms are decorated with famous paintings. The whole place is permeated with a rich cultural atmosphere. The Money-Chest Karaoke Club is doing so well that when one of its branches is full, the Club pays for the taxi to take the customers to another branch. As a result, all taxi drivers eagerly take people to the Money-Chest Karaoke Club.

Twisting to the Deafening Disco Music

Among the places where people can go in the evening in Shanghai, the discotheque is most favoured by the young people. The Yangyang Disco Square in Yan'an Road Central is a discotheque of avant-garde style where the surrealistic designs and decorations are most unusual. Its domed roof is like the night sky studded with bright stars. Along two sides of the walls are elevated corridor-style bars like deep,

1. Night scene of the People's Square
2. The sunken open-air coffee house in People's Square
3. Huanghe Road's neon lights announce its fame as a food street.
4. On a hot summer evening, people chat and cool off in People's Square.

4

> The Yangyang Disco Square on Yan'an Road Central is a discotheque of avant-garde style. To the strong beat of the music, the dancers twist their bodies and limbs crazily, totally lost to the music.

stepped gullies. Thick shafts of spotlights from the ceiling cast their beams into the hall with a capacity of 2,000 dancers, mostly young people from Shanghai. There are occasionally some foreigners and visitors who come for the experience. To the strong beat of the music, the dancers twist their bodies and limbs crazily, totally lost to the music. In the smoke-filled atmosphere and with lights flashing, the dancers seem to have grown more heads and arms. The deafening disco music is like the onslaught of a hurricane, obliterating the real world.

Returning to Old Times

The bar in the Peace Hotel on the Bund is a totally different place. The heavy classical-styled counter is matched by ancient bottle racks with a great array of famous-brand liquors and wines. As the wooden overhead fan turns slowly, the revolving lights cast their sparks on the aged musicians playing familiar jazz music of 50 years ago. Listening to songs like *Amour*, *My Heart Belongs to Daddy* and *Georgia Is on My Mind* in this atmosphere, one may wonder if time is going backwards. Those who had the experience of old Shanghai have their dust-sealed memories joggled by the songs which were popular during the days of their youth and are moved almost to tears by sentimental memories of the past. They raise their cups and sing along; some even begin to dance on the dance floor as they would have in their younger days. During the intermissions, some of the guests would come to the band stand and shake hands warmly with the performers as if they were meeting long-lost old friends. These customers will linger until late in the night and leave reluctantly after listening to the last song, which is invariably the *Farewell Waltz* played in the movie *Waterloo Bridge*.

People who prefer a quiet night should go to the City God's Temple. With upturned eaves, dark green roof tiles, white walls and vermilion windows, the shops here are traditional Chinese palace-style buildings. On sale in these shops are objects not usually available elsewhere, such as purple pottery tea pots, genuine silk scarves, carved ivory chopsticks and pear cough syrup. Opposite the shop buildings is the Lake-Centre Pavilion approached by the Nine-Bend Bridge. Walking along the corridor under upturned eaves, enjoying the pink flowers and round leaves of the lotuses in the lake and with music from southern string instruments whiffing into the ears is an enchanting experience of a southern style of life that has survived in a big city.

In the gentle breeze, the automobile lights on Nanjing Road are like strings of beads, colouring the nights of Shanghai.

1. **Along the railing on the Bund, many couples can be found each evening whispering sweet words into each other's ears.**
2. **Dancing to the heavy beat of rock music, the entranced dancers seem to have grown extra heads and arms.**
3. **Nanjing Road East becomes a pedestrian-only street and a playground for youngsters on roller skates at week-ends.**
4. **In the smoke-filled discotheque, with lights flashing and ear-splitting music throbbing like a hurricane, people lose their sense of reality.**

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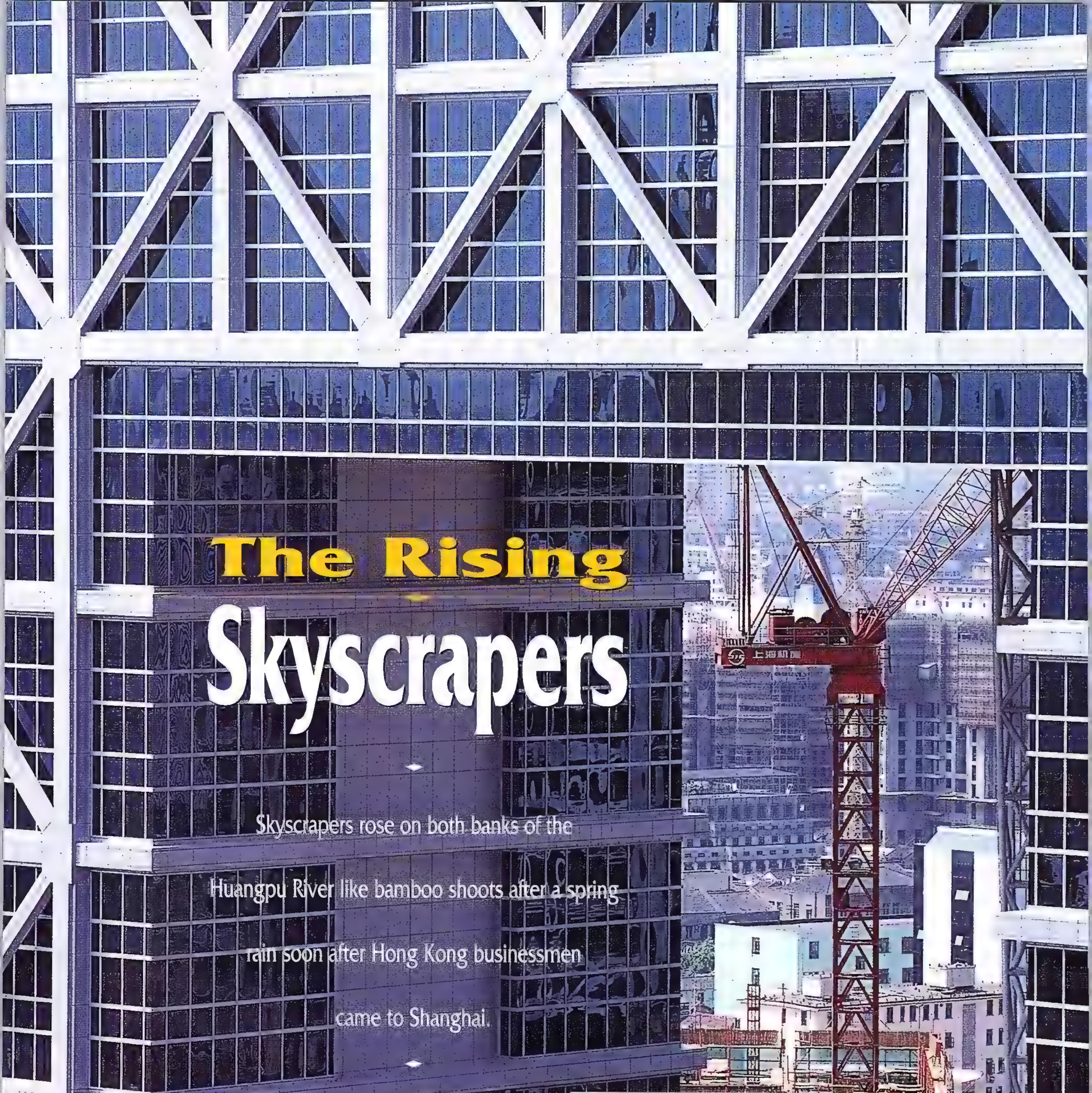

The Rising
Skyscrapers

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Skyscrapers rose on both banks of the Huangpu River like bamboo shoots after a spring rain soon after Hong Kong businessmen came to Shanghai.

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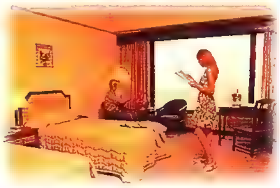
Shanghai had been a world metropolis as early as at the beginning of this century. The 14-storey Huamao Mansion built in the 1920s was the highest building in China at that time; the International Hotel, which rises 82 metres and has 22 storeys above ground, was renowned as the "Highest Building in the East" when it was built in the 1930s. With the numerous Western-styles buildings along the Bund, Shanghai was then called the "Paris of the Orient"... These buildings built half a century ago have witnessed the prosperity of this city back in the old days.

Shanghai Was Falling Behind

By the 1980s, however, the special economic zones in Guangdong, Fujian and Hainan provinces were in rapid economic development. Comparatively, Shanghai was lagging behind, looking like a declining aristocrat. When the upstarts in southern China were driving their own private cars on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen Express Way, which cost nearly 10 billion yuan to construct, the Shanghai people were still riding their old bicycles shambling through streets and alleys. When the southern young ladies in new fashions were taking taxis, Shanghai women were still wearing loose blue coats and squeezing onto crowded public buses. Shanghai was falling behind; even the proud Shanghainese commented on this. But still they had the energy to burst free.

1. The building of the Shanghai Stock Exchange in Pudong is of unusual design.
2. The Shanghai Museum, built in the shape of an ancient tripod
3. Possibly there are more cranes for high-rise construction in Shanghai than in the whole of the United States.



Radisson SAS Lansheng Hotel Shanghai

The Radisson SAS Lansheng Hotel Shanghai is a four-star international hotel, located in Hong Kou District, an ideal destination for leisure and business travellers. Each of the 417 rooms, including 37 suites are well appointed, especially the private bathroom with separate bathtub and shower cubical - an unique feature of hotels in Shanghai.

The Hotel also provides wide range of cuisine, meeting rooms, including grand ballroom, business center, gymnasium, sauna, hair salon, bowling, TV golf simulator, table tennis, indoor badminton exercise court, pool billiards and gift shop to cater different needs of the guests.

上海蘭生大酒店

上海蘭生大酒店是位於虹口區的四星級中外合作酒店，酒店共擁有417間客房，其中包括37間套房，每間客房裝修豪華、設備齊全，除必備的設施以外，尤其是每間客房的浴室由豪華大理石裝飾，均備有分置的淋浴及盆浴，為滬上一流。

酒店設有不同類型的餐廳，并有宴會廳、會議室多間，設備先進齊全的商務中心、健身房、男女桑拿、美髮中心、保齡球、電腦模擬高爾夫、乒乓球、室內羽毛球練習場、台球以及禮品店等，以滿足客人不同的需要。

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The best choice for accommodation and dining out — Radisson SAS Lansheng Hotel Shanghai

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Tel/ 電話：(8621) 6542 8000　Fax/ 傳真：(8621) 6544 8400
Postcode/ 郵政編碼 ：200437　E-mail/ 電子郵件信箱：Radsassh@public.sta.net.cn

The Rising Skyscrapers

◆

The 420-metre-high, 88-storey Jinmao Building in Pudong, known as the "First Building in China", will soon be surpassed by the 466-metre-high, 95-storey Shanghai Global Financial Centre, now under construction, which also will be the tallest building in the world on completion.

◆

In the spring of 1992, Shanghai officials quickly responded to Deng Xiaoping's comments on his southern inspection tour. They first opened up the Pudong New Development Area and also the golden area downtown to attract foreign investors. For areas not so attractive to investors, they provided preferential conditions such as the difficult-to-get import licence. Their motto was "the early bird gets the worm". One after another, many real estate companies and groups from Hong Kong came to Shanghai, including the major ones such as Henderson, Cheung Kong, Hutchison Whampoa, Sun Hung Kai, and New World Development. Their presence encouraged confidence, resulting in high price bids for lots. Very soon skyscrapers rose one by one like spring bamboo shoots after a rain. Some world-famous conglomerates, such as Coca Cola, Philips, Kodak and Gillette, also set up their headquarters in Shanghai.

More Tower Cranes in Shanghai Than in America

Shanghai is grabbing increasing attention from the rest of the world, with new high rises emerging with each passing day. The 420-metre-high, 88-storey Jinmao Building built in June this year in Pudong has replaced Diwang Building in Shenzhen as the "highest building in China" and ranks fourth in the world. The 95-storey Shanghai Global Financial Centre now under construction will be 466 metres high, 14 metres higher than the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, ranking the first in the world. The Pearl of the Orient, the Shanghai TV Tower, is the highest in Asia and the third highest in the world. It has become the symbol of this international metropolis and is also the best place to enjoy a panoramic view of Shanghai.

Ascending the TV tower's 350-metre-high Space Cabin at dusk and looking down through the windows, one may see Huangpu and Suzhou rivers joining and glittering with golden ripples, and ships and boats sailing by. On the Bund, the Western-style buildings, connected in a long line, form China's "Wall Street".

In May this year at the opening ceremony of the company's new office building on the Bund, the chairman of the US International Group announced proudly that among the 500 strongest companies in the world the Shanghai-born US International Group was the only one born in Asia. Behind this finance street, more tall buildings have been constructed and tower cranes are seen everywhere in the city. There are, at present, more than 200 tower cranes working on construction sites in Shanghai, more than the total numbers of tower cranes being used throughout the United States.

An International Metropolis Again

In addition to the skyscrapers, there are many other new buildings in various architectural styles. The Shanghai Stadium, built last year with a horse saddle-shaped roof, represents a magnificent, modern style. Imported grass seeds keep its field green all year round. It is now the best-equipped stadium in China.

The new Shanghai Museum located in the People's Square, which was built at the cost of US$70 million, is a modern design in the shape of a tripod. It is at present the most advanced museum in China. Another building matching the glamour of the museum, also in People's Square, is the Shanghai Opera House. Glittering lights at night change the theatre into a crystal palace somewhere between heaven and earth. This is a masterpiece of the famous French architect Charbonnet.

The Shanghai Pudong International Airport, now under construction, will be built in the shape of a seagull ready to fly. Its designer, the world-famous architect Paul Andrew, had also designed the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.

Recently, some economists have been discussing whether Shanghai will one day replace Hong Kong. Opinions vary, but one thing is certain — Shanghai has re-emerged as an international metropolis and a centre of world attention.

Translated by M.Q.

1. **Installing the glass exterior, a finishing touch of another new skyscraper**
2. **The Shanghai Stadium with its horse-saddle roof**
3. **The Shanghai First and Yaohan Department Store in Pudong is the largest department store in Asia.**
4. **The Shanghai Opera House stands like a crystal palace.**

Transport for All Directions

As the plane took off from the Hongqiao International Airport, I had a panoramic view of Shanghai through the windows. Suzhou River resembled a snake winding from west to east, passing under Outer Baidu Bridge to join the Huangpu River. The world-class Nanpu, Yangpu and Xupu bridges were just like toys. The rivers add graceful and beautiful touches, even romance, to this international metropolis, and also provide communication channels to link it with places in China and the rest of the world. Of course, today, Shanghai does not rely only on the waters for its transportation. In fact, it has a complete network involving the air, the ground and the sea.

Travelling through the city is no longer a headache these days. The Yan'an Road viaduct, resembling artwork carved in relief, has added one more thoroughfare to the city communication network. These viaducts form a criss-crossed transportation network connecting every part of the central district. The newly-built Subway Line 1 between Shanghai Railway Station and Xinzhuang has succeeded in diverting many of its passengers in the north-south direction. Passengers are now looking forward to the construction of the Line 2 passing under the Huangpu River to connect with Pudong. Some far-sighted people are already planning to buy real estate along the subway in Pudong.

2

A decade ago during my first visit to Shanghai, I was pushed out of the railway station by the crowds and found myself a total stranger in the city. When I suddenly saw the name of my hometown on a street board, I had such a comfortable feeling that tears rose in my eyes. Shanghai roads have all been named after the provinces and cities. The streets running east-west are named after cities, such as Nanjing Road, Beijing Road, Fuzhou Road; those running north-south are named after provinces, such as Fujian Road, Zhejiang Road, Sichuan Road. Criss-crossed alleys are named in numbers, odd numbers on one side and even numbers on the other, making it very easy to locate a place.

As an international metropolis, Shanghai is now changing with each passing day. Its transportation facilities are also progressing rapidly. In the 1980s, it was very common for buses, trolley-buses and bicycles to compete for space, making all traffic move very slowly. Hopelessly, bus conductors would bang the side of the bus to warn off cyclists and pedestrians. This has now become an out-dated memory, like a faded black-and-white photo. The city of Shanghai is expanding, so is its transportation network.

Translated by M.Q.

1. **Passengers on the subway train running from Shanghai Railway Station to Xinzhuang**
2. **Tourist buses make it convenient to visit scenic spots in the city.**
3. **The bicycle lane under the Yan'an Road Viaduct**
4. **A night scene of the Yan'an Road Viaduct**

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The Disappearing

Shikumen Houses

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At noon sunlight pours into every corner of the narrow alleys, casting shadows on washing hung on haphazardly-arranged bamboo sticks. Through the half-closed doors of the Shikumen houses, or alley houses, comes the sounds of old folks snoring through their naps.

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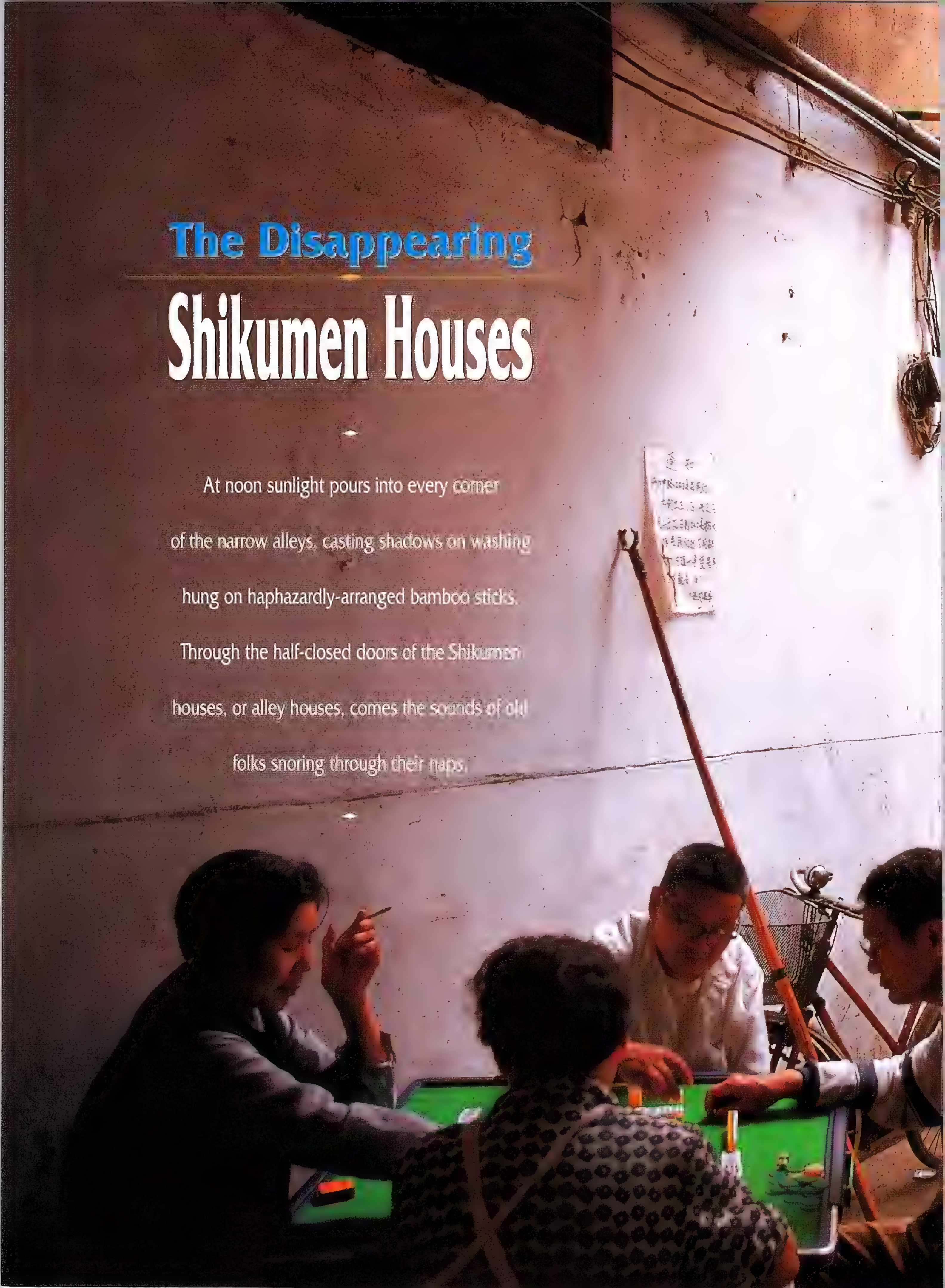

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Nestled quietly behind the modern high-rises are Shanghai's unique dwellings known as Shikumen, or alley houses. From up high, these houses of uneven height so closely packed look like an ocean of roof tiles. The mass of alleys through them resembles a giant maze or the veins on a withered leaf. Strangers walking in almost certainly lose their way.

At five in the morning the thin mist had yet to disperse, even as the sun was rising. A skylight with a frame painted in red on a roof suddenly cracks open and out come a few pots of chrysanthemums and roses to catch the sun on the roof; pigeons from another roof-top take to the air in no time. The doors of the Shikumen houses begin to open and grey-haired people step out. They walk briskly and congregate at the Bund by the river, or in the old Town God's Temple at Yuyuan Garden, or in the large and small parks of the city, to sip tea, chat or practise Taiji.

As soon as the clock strikes seven, it is the turn of the middle-aged, young people and children. The narrow alleys come to life as they leave for work or school in a hurry, transforming the city with a youthful pulse.

Bamboo Sticks as Washing Lines

Before the morning rush hour in the alleys is over, the old people have come back from their morning exercises, carrying baskets of vegetables and meat for lunch. As a few stoves burning coal-cakes are kindled, the alleys are veiled in thin smoke, half obliterating the few commodes drying upside down along the walls beside the mops, and air-conditioners. The daily washing is then hung out on haphazardly-arranged bamboo sticks to dry. Like flags and banners, they obscure the rising sun.

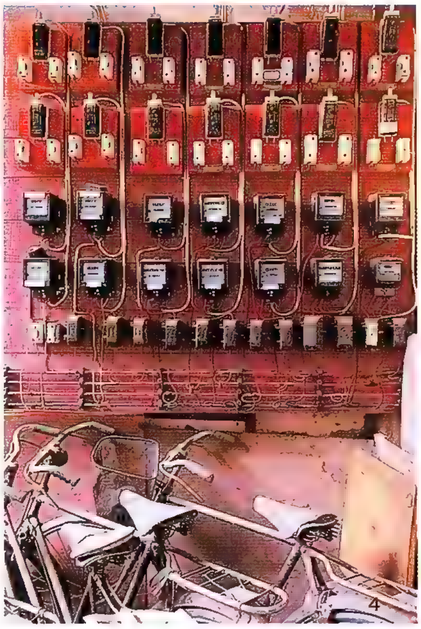
Before long comes the sound of shuffling tiles in mahjong games from under a building extension. As the stakes are only 10 to 20 cents, the game is played for fun with no ill-feelings between the neighbours. When a stranger appears in the alley, gazing around, however, the Shikumen neighbours are always on guard. Looking at you up and down, they will demand in a stern voice, "Whom are you looking for?" If you answer that you are a tourist, they will ask, "Is Shanghai an interesting place?" and become more friendly. If you hesitate, one of them may speak English to you. Many older folks born in the foreign concessions studied English in the missionary schools.

After lunch, as the sun pours into every corner of the Shikumen, the alleys become deserted. The shadows cast by the washing on disordered bamboo sticks dance continually on the ground. Through half-closed doors come sounds of snoring old people having afternoon naps. Many of the wooden doors coated in black lacquer are decorated with finely crafted brass knockers, giving an elegant touch. The Roman-style semi-circular ornament above the door frame is often cracked, exposing red bricks mottled with green moss. As clouds drift by overhead casting shadows, the place looks bleak.

The Origin of Alley Houses

In 1843, soon after losing the Opium War, the Qing government was forced to turn Shanghai into an open trading port. When George Belford, the first British consul in Shanghai, arrived, he had his eyes on the west bank of the Huangpu River, a kilometre from the town. To the prefecture governor, Gong Mujiu, the river bank was a desolate place overgrown with reeds and full of flies and mosquitoes. Since the Chinese and foreigners had to be segregated, Gong immediately agreed and handed over the land.

At the time, the British traders knew little of the Chinese market. A big company in Sheffield shipped over a large number of knives and forks; they were placed in the shops, but nobody bought them. Another company in London thought that there must be one in every 200 Chinese women interested in learning to play the piano and expectantly shipped many pianos to Shanghai; unsold, the pianos rotted in the damp warehouse.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However, in the same year that Belford arrived in Shanghai, Hong Xiuquan founded a Christian group in Guangxi and engaged this group in anti-government activities. Ten years later, Nanjing City was taken by the Taiping army led by Hong. The insurgent members of the Small Dagger Society supported the army and responded by occupying Shanghai. Fleeing from war, many Shanghai families moved to the concessions. A foreign merchant named Smith, believing opportunity had come at last, openly declared that housing in the concessions was not to be philanthropy, but a commercial enterprise. He invested heavily in the construction of simple workers' housing similar to those of the industrial districts of London and Manchester. Within six or seven years, a total of

Previous page: Old people frequently play mahjong in the alleys.

1. Having a haircut on the street

2. A young Shikumen resident playing erhu, a traditional Chinese music instrument

3. Reading a newspaper is the best way for this old man to spend the afternoon.

4. These electric meters tell how many families live in this house.

5. In the evening, the narrow alley becomes a football field.

6. The unique Shikumen houses, known as alley houses in Shanghai, still stand behind the modern tall buildings.

6

Originally Shikumen dwellings were each occupied by a single family. Now shared by a number of families, they are very crowded. Young people eagerly dream of moving away into a new, tall apartment block.

9,000 wooden-plank houses sprang up.

When the situation stabilised in 1864, the British and Americans declared that for fire prevention wooden houses must be replaced with brick-and-wood buildings. Some foreign companies, such as the old Sassoon, Jardine, Matheson & Co., and Renji, who were early opium traders in Shanghai, all invested in real estate. Shikumen-style houses then rose up here, there and everywhere in old Shanghai, eventually making up 65 percent of the dwellings.

Young People Eager to Move Out

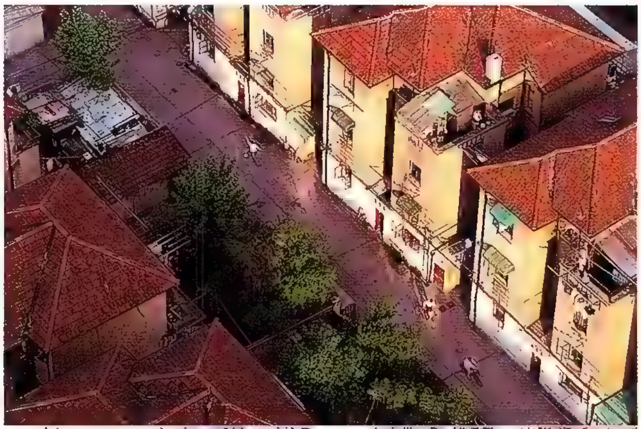
When the sun heads west and the newspaper stall at the alley entrance starts selling evening papers, an old man awakes from his nap. Rubbing his still sleepy eyes, he walks to the stall, paying 50 cents for a copy of the Xinmin Evening News. As he unfolds the newspaper smelling of fresh ink — "whiz!" — a football flies past him, almost touching his head. Before he can get angry, a youngster with a satchel runs away with the football. He grumbles, "Little rascal!" Back in the alley, he finds more football-playing youngsters; the game will not stop until the parents return to drag their sweaty children back home.

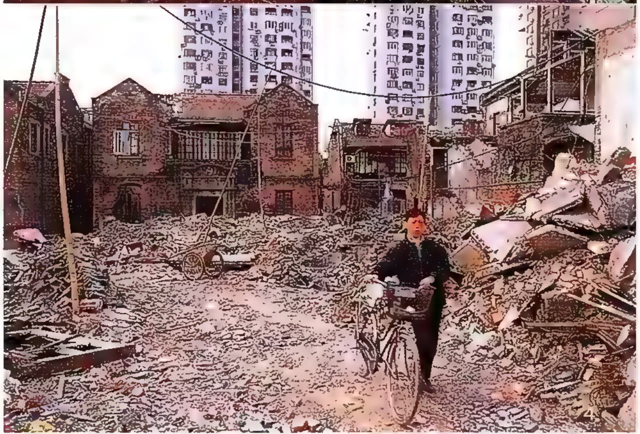
When the setting sun is enshrouded by mist and white pigeons glide home, the stylishly-dressed young people come home. They rarely eat at home. Many work at foreign-owned or joint venture enterprises and earn much more than their retired fathers. But they usually spend it all on their appearance, believing imported brand name clothes are necessary. They often hold parties, go on tours and lead, in general, a carefree life. But it is with great embarrassment that a young man brings his girlfriend home, because there is even no private toilet or bath in the house. He does not dare talk about marriage.

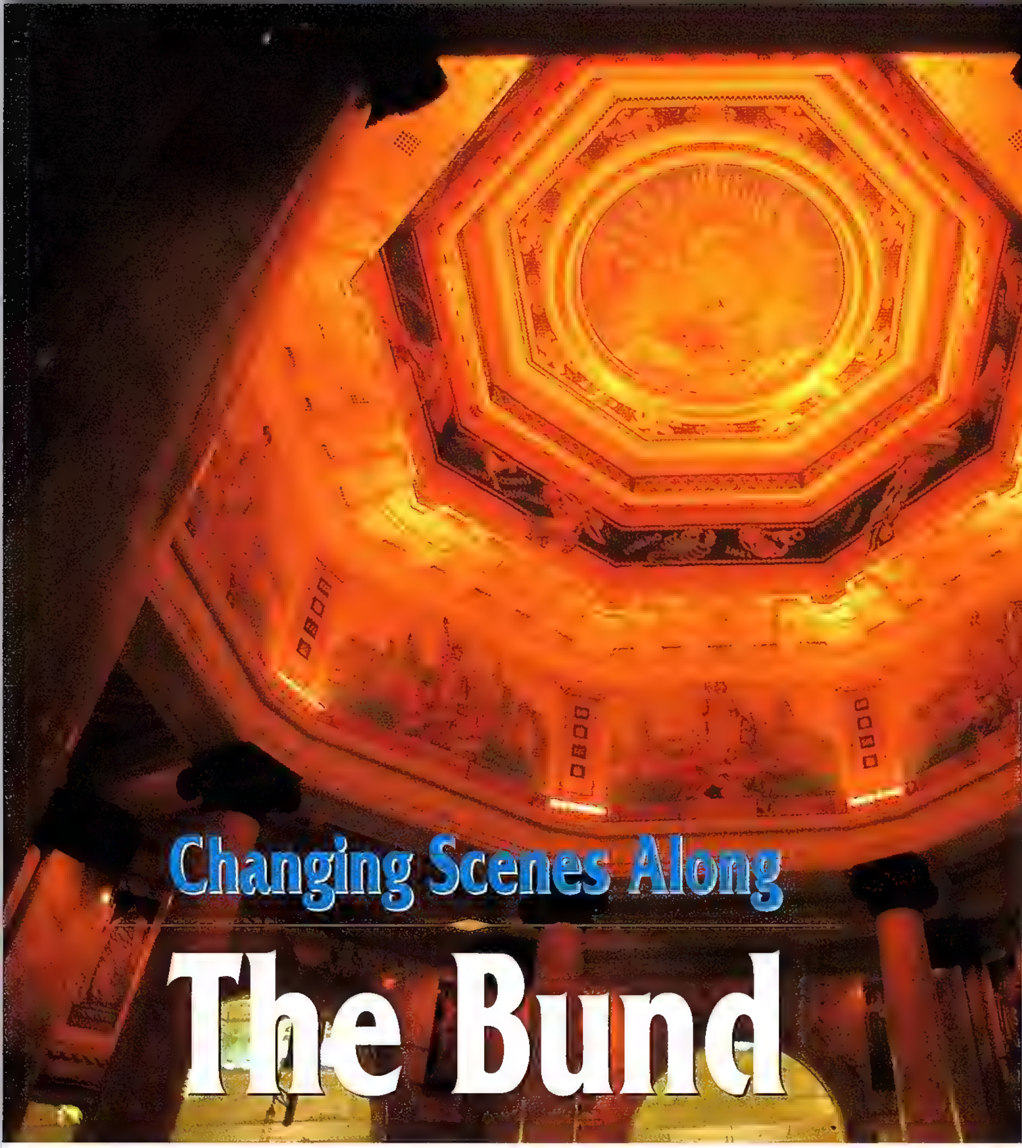
A previously spacious room here is now often partitioned off — father and mother, son and daughter-in-law — or shared by two brothers and their wives. Sometimes, it is simply partitioned by a curtain. Each house intended for a single family is now occupied by a number of tenants. The long-standing wish of young people here is to move out and live in a high-rise apartment in a newly-developed district.

When night falls, the alley houses are outlined by street lamps in grey silhouettes. From the construction site nearby comes the sound of pile drivers echoing like thunder, shaking the doors and windows of the alley houses. People inside the houses can see flashing neon lights through their windows. The high-rises are coming closer and closer together with elevated highways rushing forward like flying dragons. The Shikumen houses that prospered during the early years of this century are gradually disappearing and a new Shanghai is coming into being at the end of the century.

1. **A test of the driver's skill: a decorated wedding car snakes its way into an alley.**
2. **Newspapers displayed in the alley for all its residents to read**
3. **The Shikumen houses in Shanghai originated in the foreign concessions.**
4. **These British-style houses, built originally for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank employees, will be pulled down for the construction of an overpass.**
5. **The Shikumen houses are vanishing fast.**

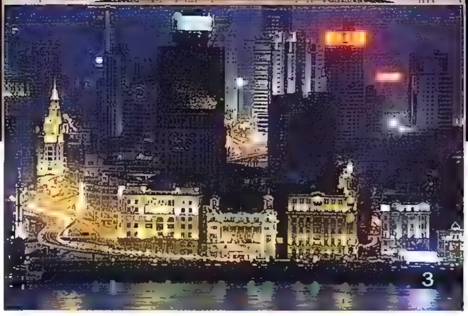






Changing Scenes Along

The Bund



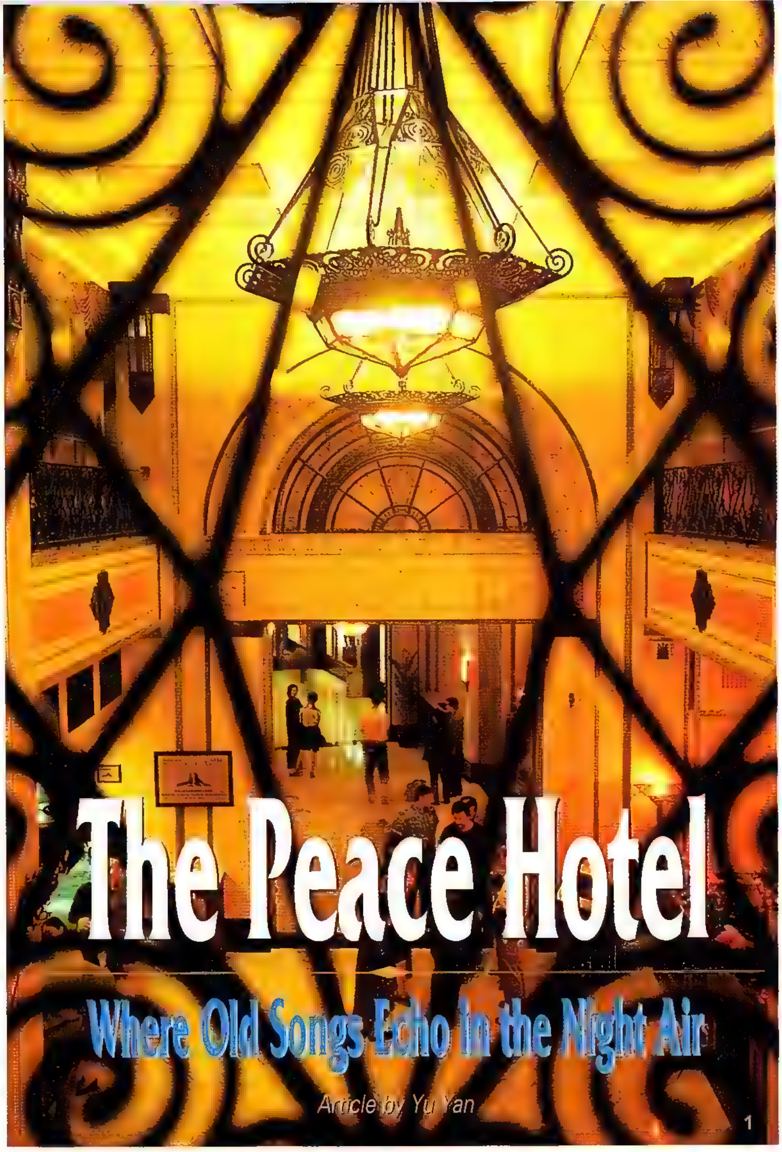
The Bund presents the most famous sight of the great oriental metropolis of Shanghai. As you step onto the embankment along the Bund paved with smoothly polished brown marble and beautiful metal railings, you will be attracted by the classical continental-European-style gaslight street lamps and a continuous row of Western-style buildings, such as the Peace Hotel with one section of Renaissance style and another section of the modern Chicago school of architecture; the Customs Building, a Grecian-style structure with columns; the Dongfeng Hotel in baroque style.... But the most imposing one is the Grecian-styled granite edifice of the Pudong Development Bank (originally the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation). This area previously known as the "Wall Street of China" is now "a museum of international architecture".

The steam-whistles of ships on the Huangpu River blow every now and then. Leaning on the railings, one will see boats plying the river against a background of tall buildings in Pudong on the opposite bank. Contrasting the old Shanghai of the early 20th century on this side of the river is the new city that has sprung up on the other side, moving Shanghai forward into the next century.

Throughout the day, the Bund presents different sights. In the early morning, before the mist on the river clears, old people come in pairs or threesomes to practise martial arts exercises on the embankment and fully enjoy the fresh morning air. By the strike of eight on the Customs Building clock, the old folks are replaced by tourists and working people. The busy stream of people flows back and forth until nightfall. In the evening, the Bund naturally becomes a rendezvous of young lovers. On summer weekends, instrumentalists often stage open-air concerts in front of the statue of Chen Yi, the first mayor of Shanghai, or at the Huangpu Park and mellow the night of the prosperous city with sweet melodies.

Cruising on the Huangpu River at night, the buildings of varied architectural styles along the Bund, all lit up in colour, are like palaces in fairy tales. It is a completely different view from the daytime, yet it is an equally entrancing one.

1. **This gorgeously decorated ceiling was discovered when the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (originally the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) on the Bund was being redecorated.**
2. **With many world banks returning to the Bund, Shanghai will soon become a new financial centre in Asia.**
3. **Buildings along the Bund at night**
4. **Among the world's 500 most powerful companies, the US International Corp. is the only one originating in Asia.**



The Peace Hotel

Where Old Songs Echo in the Night Air

Article by Yu Yan

Buildings are what make the city. Behind the faded, mottled and yet uniquely fascinating walls of most of the old buildings are hidden stories of joys and sorrows, partings and reunions, and all the other vicissitudes of life. While Shanghai moves forward, the legendary Peace Hotel, which has recorded a century of changes, remains what it used to be. Visitors looking for traces of old Shanghai invariably stop by this distinctive green copper roofed building.

The Peace Hotel was formerly the Sassoon House (Huamao or Cathay Hotel) built by Victor Sassoon, a British Jew who accumulated great wealth through trade in opium and real estate. In 1926, he pulled down the five-storey office building of the New Sassoon Company at the intersection of the Bund and Nanjing Road and invested 2,493,600 taels of silver in the construction of the Sassoon House. Completed in 1929, the mansion, which was an office building and hotel together, was an 11-storey structure 77 metres high — the tallest building on the Bund.

The hotel had nine special suites on the fifth floor, which were decorated in the Chinese, Japanese, British, American, French, Indian, German, Italian and Spanish national styles to cater for the tastes of guests from various countries. In 1936, when Cuba re-established its consulate in Shanghai, it was located in this hotel. After the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, the mansion was occupied by the Japanese army until 1945. The Sassoon Mansion was taken over by the Shanghai Municipal Government in 1952 and, in 1956 was returned to its original function as a hotel and renamed the Peace Hotel.

Today, the Peace Hotel has two sections: the Sassoon Mansion and the former Huizhong Hotel on the opposite side of the street. Built in 1900, the Huizhong Hotel was the most luxurious hotel built with foreign capital in Shanghai at the time. This hotel held the banquet to welcome Dr. Sun Yat-sen back from abroad when he assumed the post of President of China, as well as the engagement ceremony between Chiang Kai-shek and Soong Mei-ling. This baroque-style building of seven storeys was the first hotel in Shanghai with a roof garden which, unfortunately, was destroyed by a big fire in 1914. The present roof garden was reconstructed later. Looking into the distance from the roof garden, visitors can see the beautiful view of modern Shanghai and the new look of the Pudong Development Area. After nightfall, the lights along the Bund are even more enchanting.

The Huizhong Hotel used to be affiliated to the British-owned Shanghai Hotel Company. With the opening of the Huamao Hotel, business dropped drastically, and in 1947 its manager, Mayborn, transferred the property rights at a painfully low price to the Chinese-owned Daqing Company.

During renovations of the Peace Hotel in 1989, experienced craftsmen were employed to re-cast the internationally-renowned, basket-shaped chandeliers with three tons of bronze for the hotel lobby. The storage rooms and offices on the 9th to 11th floors of the northern building were converted into seven smaller dining rooms serving different styles of cuisine. The Peace Hotel was named one of the Most Famous Hotels in the World in 1992 for its perfect preservation of the style of old Shanghai.

Today, the hotel's Jazz Bar sponsors performances by six old musicians who have been playing music for half a century. They play music and songs that were most popular in the days of their youth, bringing back the distant and yet familiar past.

1. The lobby of the Peace Hotel still retains its original style.
2. This elderly jazz band at the Peace Hotel brings people back to the 1920-30s.

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Hunting for Antiques

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Cultural relics, antiques and treasures are scattered throughout Shanghai. It requires experience and good luck to find the genuine ones.

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Wandering around antique markets is something I love to do wherever I go. This is not because I truly want to collect antiques, but because it is a wonderful way to learn the local history, and the culture and customs of the people.

In the early morning the Shanghai Antique Market at Huiji Road should have already opened, but it was nowhere to be found. As I stood there puzzled, a vendor from Henan approached me and tried to sell me "excavated objects" from his pockets. Following his direction, I found the market on Dongtai Road.

On the archway is a sign forbidding the entry of vehicles into the antique market, and both sides of the street are lined with shops and stalls. Here you can not only enjoy the various artworks but also collect your favourites. There are many stalls selling books, newspapers, magazines and Mao Zedong Badges from the "cultural revolution". Further on people can peruse through mahogany antiques, jade wares and bone decorations. Some other shops offer common daily items from the old days. Outside one shop posters of "Beauty" brand and "Old Knife" brand cigarettes were hung; these were seen everywhere in the old Shanghai and on calendars of London Insurance and Sino-French Medicine in the 1920s and 1930s. On the counters are piles of old telephones and old Swiss watches like Enica and Rolex.

I was attracted by a manual gramophone with a large trumpet-shaped loudspeaker. "Do you like it? Shall I play a record for you?" The owner warmly greeted me from behind the counter. He carefully put a record on the machine and wound it up. The needle gently fell onto the rotating record, and the music of the *Song of Four Seasons* sung by famous actress Zhou Xuan started. This would surely revive memories of the old Shanghai of half a century ago.

The shop owner is Yao Di, a former worker in the Shanghai Electron Tubes Factory who was made redundant last year. Being a collector himself, he gathered up all his collections and invested his savings of more than 100,000 yuan to open this shop. Seeing there were very few customers, I chatted with him and asked, "Do you make a profit?" He answered honestly, "Mainly we sell to foreigners. For

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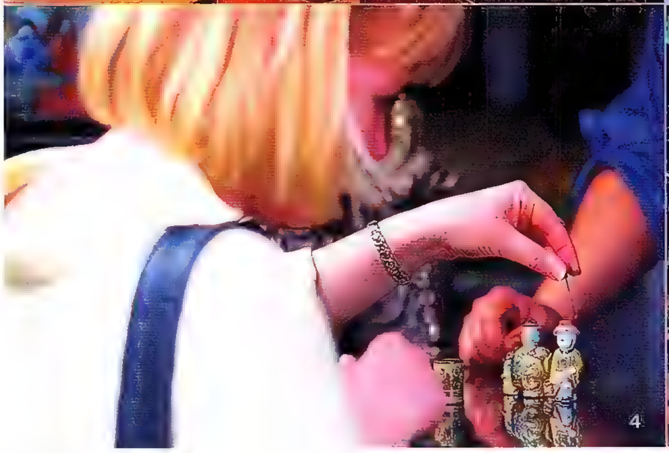
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example, bamboo baskets used by rich families in the early 20th century sell at a good price. I buy it from middlemen for 100 yuan each, do minor repairs and then sell it for 500." He continued, "These middlemen buy them from the owners for only a dozen yuan, so they also make good money." When I mentioned that someone tried to sell me "excavated objects", he commented, "I would say that 99 percent of them are fakes. But there are some real cultural relics, antiques and treasures scattered all over the city, and you need a rich knowledge before you can distinguish the authentic ones from the fakes. Also you need luck to find genuine antiques." At last he told me his experience as a collector, "When you don't know, assume the object is a fake and pay accordingly, or buy it as you would an artwork."

At the end of the antique market, a big shop, Hall of Great Virtue, stands; looking from outside, it is a typical Shanghai Shikumen residence, but inside the room is spacious and bright, furnished in old southern Chinese style with a carved wooden bed. Scrolls of paintings and calligraphy are hung on the walls. Antiques and the "four treasures of the study" of different years are displayed.

The owner, a man in his 30s, in a crew cut and wearing suspenders, looked cheerful. Talking about the history of antiques collection in Shanghai, he explained that Shanghai had been a good market for Chinese antiques since it became an open port in 1842. Rich Shanghai families had developed the hobby of collecting Chinese and foreign antiques, paintings and calligraphy, in part to show off their wealth and social status. Thus were the beginnings of a trend.

Translated by M.Q.

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1. Calendars of the 1920s and 1930s
2. Inside the Hall of Great Virtue, a big shop in the antique market on Dongtai Road
3. Dongtai Road is now the most flourishing antique market in Shanghai.
4. Foreign tourists buy antique duplicates as souvenirs.
5. This old gramophone still works well and is a hot collector's item.
6. A newly purchased classical mahogany chair

The Charm of Shanghai Qipao

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Qipao was originally a Manchu woman's dress. The advance of the Manchus towards the Central Plain and their cultural assimilation with the Han Chinese eventually made it a gown that emphasises a woman's elegant figure.

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The telephone on Zheng Meilong's desk rang again and again. Gesturing forgiveness with one hand, he picked up a phone with the other and spoke, "Everything is done by hand here. It takes three days for a *qipao* to be made by an experienced tailor. If you're in a hurry, I'm afraid you'll have to buy a ready-made one..." The Dragon & Phoenix Tailor's Shop specialises in making Chinese-style clothes. Located in Nanjing Road West, it does not have a very impressive shop front. But it is gorgeous inside. The wardrobes on all sides of the room display *qipaos* in all styles. A large mirror stands in the middle of the room next to racks piled with rolls and rolls of silks and satins of all colours. One of the oldest tailor's shops making Chinese-style clothes in Shanghai and still famous today, the Dragon & Phoenix has the air of old Shanghai in the 1920s and 1930s.

Qipao Becomes an International Trend

To the Western world, the *qipao* is undoubtedly a piece of purely Han Chinese clothing. It was, in fact, originally worn by Manchu women. When the Manchus moved into the Central Plains more than 300 years ago to rule the country, the *qipao* came with them. It was then a loose gown with straight sides, wide sleeves and the hem at the ankles, which reflected the simple and bold lifestyle of the northern nomadic people. Cultural assimilation with the Han people brought a *qipao* that gradually became more close fitting, narrower at the waist and shorter in length to emphasise a woman's figure.

Although the Revolution of 1911 overthrew the Manchu Qing Dynasty, the *qipao* was not discarded. Instead, it grew more popular in Shanghai in the 1920s and 1930s. After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, the close-fitting *qipao* for ladies gradually disappeared in the continental part of China. "But our work never stopped," said Mr. Zheng. "We still made the Chinese-style padded jackets buttoned down the front. Occasionally, we also made *qipaos* for film studios and theatrical groups." A few years ago, things like wearing *qipaos*, drinking *gongfu* tea, learning Shaolin Kungfu, listening to Peking Opera, seeing a traditional Chinese medicine doctor and taking Chinese herbal

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concoctions became fads overseas. At celebrations for the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997, almost all the ladies were dressed in *qipaos* of elegant new styles. Is the *qipao* really making a comeback?

Ms. Zhang from the Shanghai Public Transportation Company walked into Mr. Zheng's shop with some family members. From the bashful way she spoke, it was obvious she was a girl about to be married. Going through a whole pile of fabrics, she knitted her brows until an enthusiastic salesgirl helped her pick a roll of pink genuine silk with small pale white flowers. It looked elegant and tasteful when the fabric was draped over Ms. Zhang's shoulders. When asked why she had chosen to have a *qipao* made, Zhang said, "The *qipao* shows the graceful and restrained beauty of the Oriental people." A *qipao*, including tailoring, costs about 1,000 yuan, which is about her whole month's salary. "We don't go out to parties or socialise often. After the wedding, the gown will probably lie at the bottom of a drawer," she said, but with no feeling of regret.

Overseas Orders Keep Traditions Alive

Around eight o'clock in the evening, an air conditioned bus stopped in front of the Dragon & Phoenix Tailor's Shop. About two dozen gorgeously dressed Hong Kong ladies filed out, each carrying a bundle of beautiful silk fabric. Smiling, they excitedly looked at the *qipaos* in the display wardrobes and tried them on one after another. They then showed the tailors the fabrics they had brought with them and asked to have *qipaos* made to measure. They were extremely happy with the price which was about 500-1,000 yuan each.

Recently, many people from overseas have come to Shanghai to have Chinese-style clothes made. Last year, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Tung Chee Hwa, was also here to place orders — a testimony to the Dragon & Phoenix's first-class workmanship and renown. But Zheng Meilong decided not to enlarge his business just yet. With folded arms, he smiled and said, "Resurrecting the past is a usual strategy in the fashion world. Many people simply follow the fashion, so when the fad dies, business will drop."

In recent years, however, several small Chinese-style tailoring shops, such as the Floral Dress in Maoming Street and the Bamboo Skin in Changle Street, have sprung up. They have made improvements on the traditional *qipaos* and tailored them in more casual and lively styles to win the hearts of young people. We shall have to wait and see if the *qipao* can survive the time.

1. **The Floral Dress Tailor's Shop in Maoming Street has recreated the atmosphere of old Shanghai.**
2. **With the ladies' *qipao* back in fashion, Chinese-style men's clothes have also become popular.**
3. **Every fastener on a *qipao* is sewn by hand.**
4. **The Dragon & Phoenix is an world-renowned tailor's shop where the work is first class.**
5. **The Dragon & Phoenix Tailor's Shop is favoured by people from overseas.**

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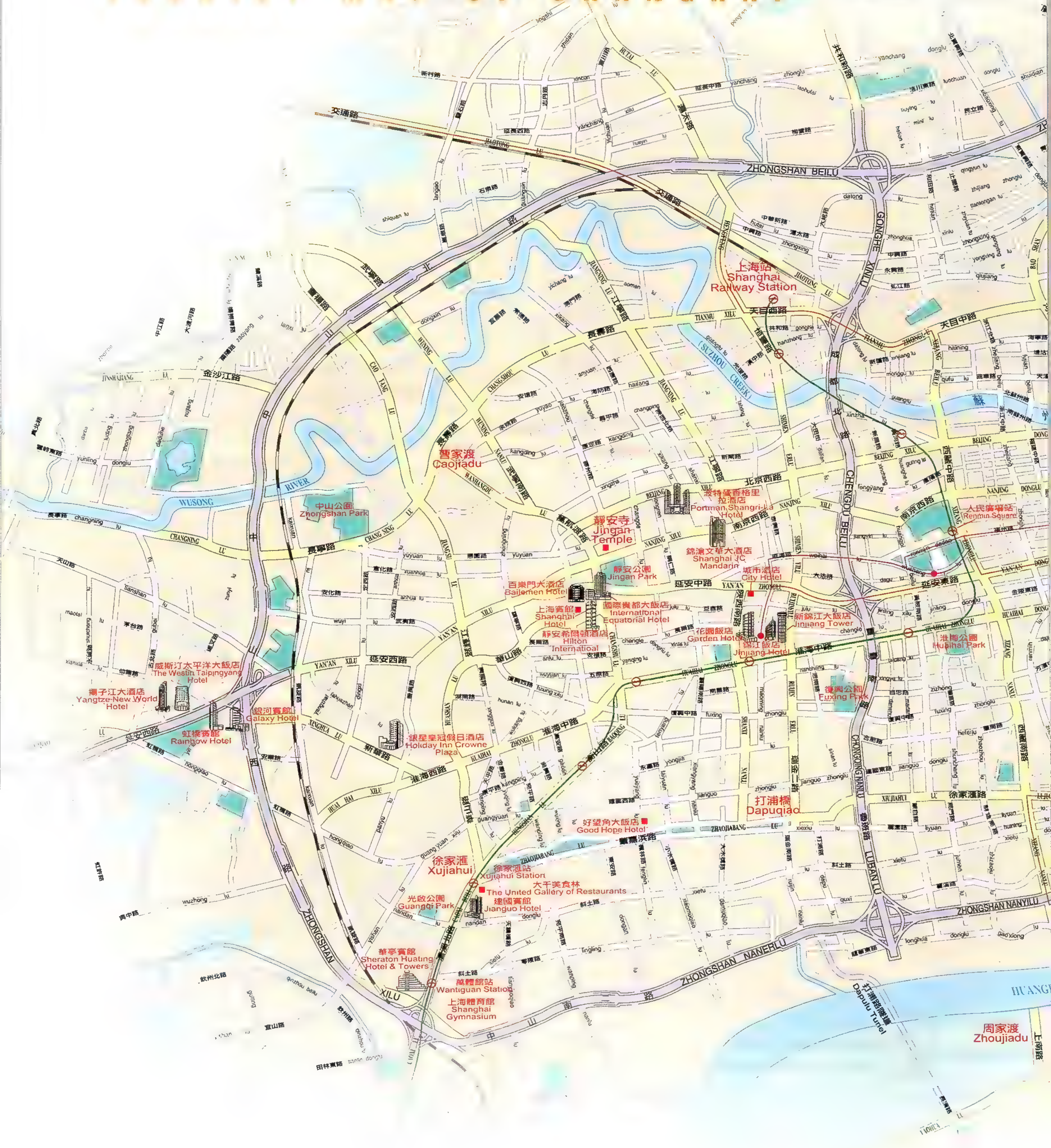
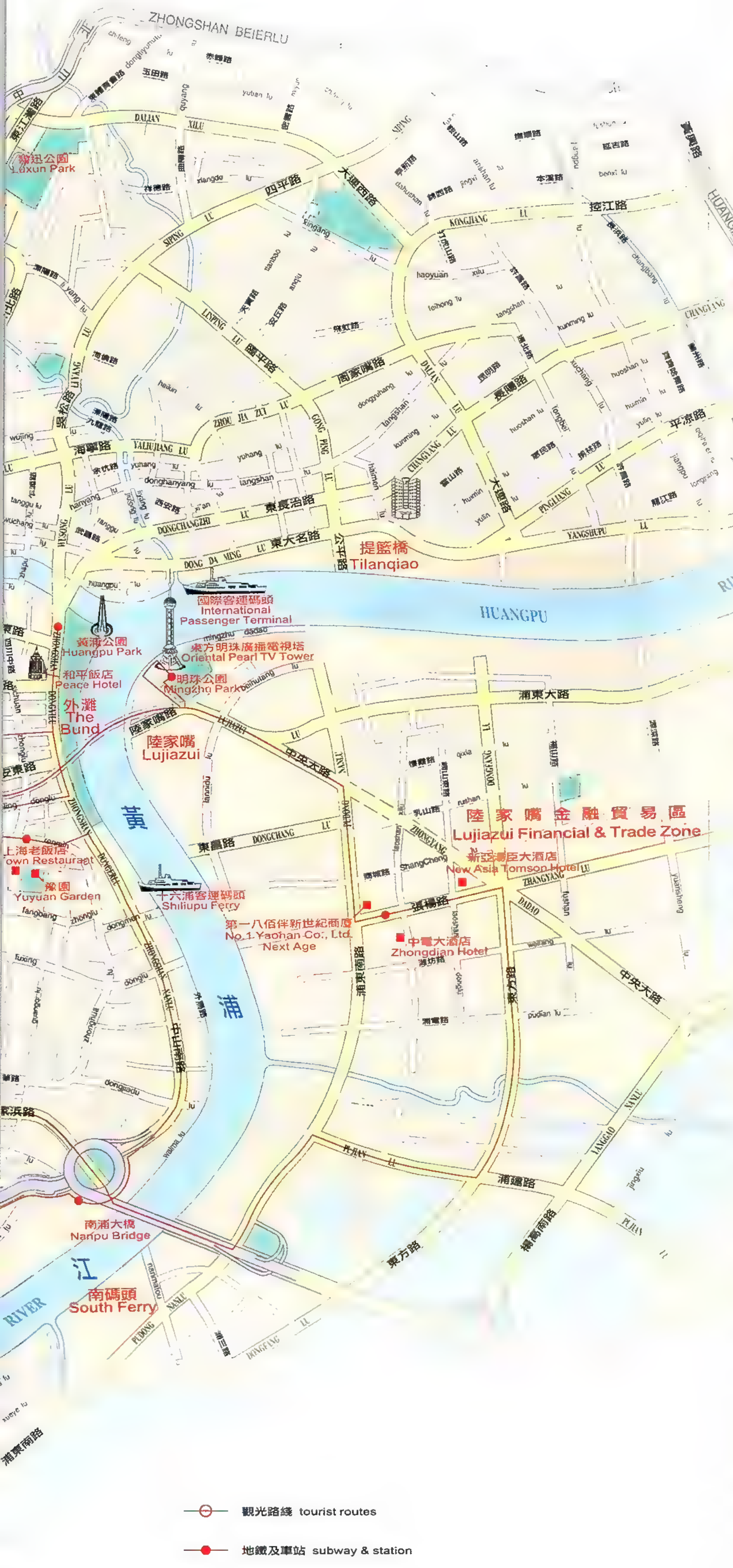
上海旅遊路線示意圖

TOURIST MAP OF SHANGHAI





One-day Tour in Shanghai

7:00 a.m.: Take a walk at the Bund whether it is fine or foggy. On the walkway groups of old folks do Taiji, sword dances and even ballroom dances daily. A few dozen Western-style buildings of the 1920s or 1930s line the bank of the Huangpu River. You can also lean on the railing to view ships and boats sailing on the river and the skyscrapers in Pudong across the river.

8:00 a.m.: As the big clock on the Customs Building strikes eight, hire a taxi to go to Lübolang Restaurant in Yuyuan Garden for breakfast. Taking a window seat, try the slightly sweet Nanxiang steamed buns and a bowl of prawn-meat wanton soup. Meanwhile, you can enjoy the beautiful scenery of southern Chinese gardens.

9:00 a.m.: After breakfast, take a walk on the Nine-Bend Bridge, enjoying the garden scenery with elegant pavilions, platforms, towers, bridges and ponds. There are shops and stalls selling many kinds of arts and crafts and local produce such as silk, porcelain, purple pottery teapots, and chopsticks.

10:00 a.m.: The antique market on Dongtai Road opens. All the shops and stalls are run by private owners specialising in ancient porcelain, inscriptions on ancient bronzes and stone tablets, ancient paintings and calligraphy, old electric appliances, old furniture, and objects from the "cultural revolution".

12:00 noon: Ascend the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and sit in the revolving restaurant at a height of 267 metres. Looking down you can enjoy a panoramic view of the whole Shanghai. The Nanpu, Yangpu and Xupu bridges look like rainbows across the meandering Huangpu River. If it is a fine day, you may even be able to see Chongming Island and the entrance of the Yangtse River in the distance.

2:00 p.m.: Visit Pudong, the newly-developed area of Shanghai. See the largest stock exchange building in Asia, Jinmao Building — the tallest building in China, and the Shanghai World Financial Centre — the tallest building in the world when finished. Also there is the First and Yaohan Co. Ltd. which is the largest department store in Asia.

4:00 p.m.: Wander through the Shanghai Museum built in the shape of an ancient tripod, located on the People's Square. It is the most modern-equipped museum in China with a rich variety of collections.

6:30 p.m.: The restaurants on Huanghe Road and Zhapu Road are the best choices for dinner in Shanghai.

9:00 p.m.: Roam through Nanjing Road, the busiest commercial street in Shanghai. At night it has a spectacular display of neon lights. There are many famous shops on Nanjing Road, including the silk shop of Laojiefu, Peiluomen for Western suits, the Dragon & Phoenix Tailor's Shop and Zhang Xiaoquan's scissors shop.

10:30 p.m.: Whether you like jazz or not, you should visit the Peace Hotel to see the Old Men Jazz Band, watch local people dance and enjoy a taste of old Shanghai in the 1920s and 1930s. If you are young and prefer the more modern atmosphere, go to visit some of Shanghai's discos and dance the night away.

U.S. President Clinton Toured Yuyuan Garden

Article by Shi Langdu

In the afternoon of June 30, 1998 the U.S. President Clinton and his wife and daughter came to visit Yuyuan Garden, a classical Ming-dynasty garden. President Clinton, First Lady Hillary, their daughter Chelsea and his mother-in-law had lunch at the Lübolang Restaurant there. Clinton was the first American president Lübolang Restaurant has ever hosted. Cold dishes of various kinds were placed on the table, and the waitress introduced their names and ingredients one by one. President Clinton listened very carefully. During every course, he always tasted it first himself and then gave his impressions with a smile to his family members and friends at the table. The president apparently enjoyed the jujube-paste cake and commented, "I've never had such nice snacks."

The Sweet-scented Osmanthus Rice Cake is one of the best snacks the restaurant offers. It is sticky and soft, so it was difficult for Clinton, who is more accustomed to using a knife and fork, to pick a piece with chopsticks. It was whispered that before coming to China the president had practised with chopsticks for a month. But it did not prepare him for cakes like this. To eat one small piece of cake, the president used three pairs of chopsticks.

To the president's daughter, Lübolang's snacks were so good that after eating one shredded-turnip cake, she stood up to ask for another from the next table. The chilli cabbage suited the president's taste. Interested, he asked the waitress how it was prepared. His daughter did not appreciate his recommendation though and cried out, "Hot, hot!" before quickly grasping her water glass.

When a plate of fruit was served, the president looked at the characters carved on the fruit, which he could not understand, and was puzzled. When his interpreter told him that the words meant "Sino-American Friendship", he immediately repeated.

The traditional snacks and specialities left a deep impression on President Clinton and his family. Their dining time extended from the planned 20 minutes to one hour. After the meal, the president invited all the restaurant staff to take photos with him. He wrote on the VIP Visitor's Book: "Thank you for the wonderful lunch." The First Lady also wrote: "Thank you for your hospitality!"

After lunch, President Clinton and his entourage entered the west entrance of Yuyuan Garden. Clinton became very fond of the Jade Flower Hall and the old furniture there, commenting, "This is a poetic place, good for rest." Out of the hall, Clinton and his daughter stepped onto a three-bend slabstone bridge with red carp swimming underneath. The president and his daughter threw some bread to the fish, who immediately stirred up waves, competing for the food. Clinton said, "Fascinating! The red carp are the best part of the garden." Enthralled, they overstayed their scheduled time there.

When the guests were leaving, the president's car suddenly stopped in front of the Mos Burger Fast-food Restaurant in the Yuyuan Shopping Centre, where the president and his daughter got out. His bodyguards were worried and immediately stopped their car and hurried to the president. The "problem" was simply that Chelsea wanted to buy an ice cream. After they went in to buy two vanilla ice creams, the president and his daughter shook hands with the surprised shop assistant and said goodbye.

Translated by M.Q.

1. Clinton and family visiting the Yuyuan Garden (by Hang Lingbing)
2. President Clinton and First Lady Hillary sign the VIP book after having lunch in the restaurant. (by Lang Haibao)
3. Yuyuan Garden

旅遊勝地購物天堂

Tourists Attraction and Shopping Paradise

九曲橋 Nine Zigzag Bridge

上海豫園旅遊商城，位於上海南市老城廂北隅，與老城隍廟、樓閣參差的豫園毗連，集上海老城廂人文景觀、明清建築和特色商市於一體，是具上海地方特色的商業中心和旅遊勝地。商城主營百貨、餐飲、食品、黃金飾品、工藝品、醫藥、土產、物資、旅遊、娛樂、拍賣、進出口貿易和黃金飾品、食品生產、加工製作。擁有一批著名商店、特色商店、中華老字號企業和黃金、食品、小吃專賣店、連鎖店等。

隨着1994年9月豫園商城一期改擴建工程竣工開業後，一大批雄奇壯觀的仿明清商業樓宇相繼落成，例如「天裕樓」、「華寶樓」、「和豐樓」、「悅賓樓」、「景容樓」、「酣靈樓」及以塔式風格見長並早已聲名遠揚的亞一金店「景豫樓」。商城的商用建築面積由原有的1.8萬平方米擴大了四倍，並以新樓宇群「外古內洋」的獨特風格和典雅迷人的燈光夜景，形成上海最大的旅遊購物中心。

商城內的小吃街、珠寶街、小商品街、名品街等街市蜿蜒其間，與古園林、九曲橋、荷花池等交相輝映，組成一幅蔚為壯觀的現代《清明上河圖》，成為滬上獨一無二的風景線。璀璨瑰麗、宛若仙境的燈光夜景，使豫園商城成為「不夜城」。獨具中國民族風格的燈光景點流光溢彩、火樹銀花，恰似一曲醉人的「春江花月夜」，別具一番韻味。這一切，使豫園商城被評為「九十年代上海新景觀」之一。

凝暉閣 Ninghui Pavilion

上海豫園商城

Shanghai Yuyuan Tourist Shopping Centre

華寶樓 Huabao Tower

Shanghai Yuyuan Tourist Shopping Centre, situated in the Nanshi District in Shanghai with the City God's Temple and the Yuyuan Garden in its neighbourhood, is both a business centre and tourist spot, combining the glamour of ancient architecture with the liveliness of a modern shopping centre.

The centre specialises in a great variety of products, including sundry goods, food and beverages, gold and jewellery, handicrafts, medications and local products. It is also involved in businesses such as auction, import and export trade, tourism, entertainment, as well as food production and processing. At this centre you can find a number of top-grade stores selling manifold dainty products combining tradition and modernity.

Following the completion of the first phase of the expansion project in September 1994, Yuyuan Shopping Centre has emerged as a magnificent shopping "palace" of Ming and Qing architectural style, four times larger than the original in floor space. The new complex is composed of a series of ancient-style buildings, such as Tianyu Tower, Huabao Tower, Hefeng Tower, and Yuebin Tower, to name a few, in addition to Jingyu Tower, where the Yayi Gold and Jewellery Shop is situated. With its ancient outlook, exotic inner decor and dazzling neon lighting, this largest tourist shopping centre in Shanghai adds to the splendour of the city at night.

The criss-crossing Food Street, Jewellery Street and Souvenir Street in the shopping centre, together with the ancient garden, the Nine-Twist Bridge and the Lotus Pool in the background, create an enticing charm. In the glittering light, the Yuyuan Tourism Shopping Centre is particularly attractive at night. The centre has been listed as one of the "New Scenic Spots in Shanghai in the 1990s".

湖心亭 Lake Centre Pavilion

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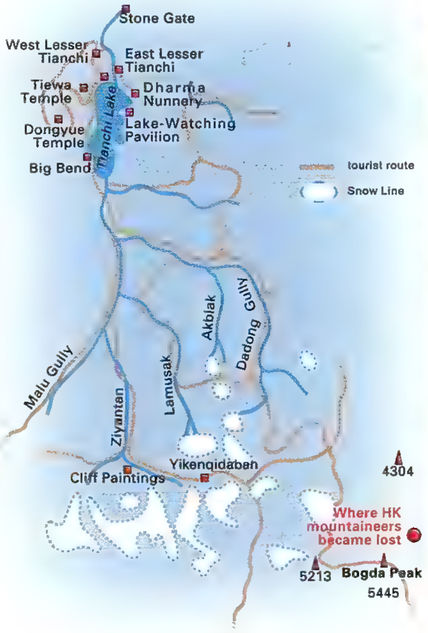
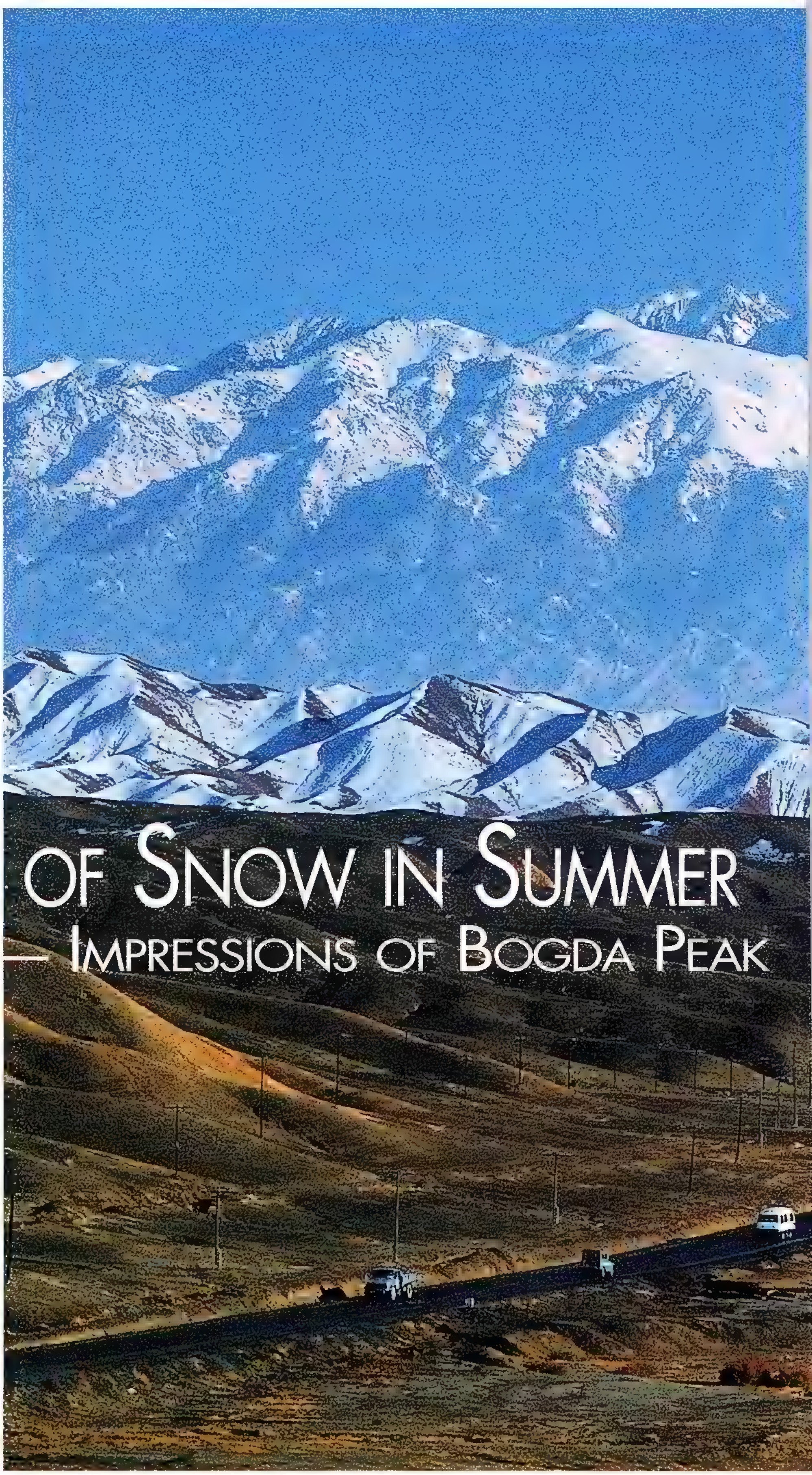
EDITOR'S NOTE: After three Hong Kong mountaineers became lost while climbing the Bogda Peak in Xinjiang, more people in Hong Kong and the rest of the world became curious about the peak. They regretted that the rescue team was forced to stop their search due to bad weather, and they wanted to know more about the mystery of the mountain. The authors, who visited Bogda with a scientific inspection team, share with us their experience and the mysterious beauty of the peak. Through this story, they also hope to express their respect for the lost mountaineers and sympathies to their relatives.

A WORLD OF SNOW IN SUMMER

— IMPRESSIONS OF BOGDA PEAK

Photos by Song Shijing
Article by Jin Wei, Song Shijing





Bogda Peak is located near Fukang City, 90 kilometres from Urümqi, the capital of Xinjiang in Northwest China. Throughout the year the peak is crowned by snow whose silvery rays form a beautiful contrast with the clear green waters of the Tianchi Lake. Together they present the natural beauty of a towering peak and a highland lake.

In the summer of 1997, I went to the peak with a scientific study team. During days of untold hardships and interesting surprises, we roamed the area of around 300 square kilometres, passing through valleys, oases, forests, grassland, snow peaks, glaciers, as well as gobi desert and desolate wilderness. The unique scenery and abundant natural resources left us with unforgettable memories.

In the mid-July summer heat we were sweating heavily in short-sleeve shirts leaving Urümqi. Yet barely close to Bogda we had to change into eiderdown coats.

A Nylon Rope Lifeline

Driving east out of the Urümqi Oasis, the magnificent Bogda Peak was within sight. We found the pebbles on the road burning hot in the sunlight and waves of heat mercilessly sneaked into the car. By the time we turned onto the road spiralling around the mountain, however, a cool breeze arrived. Now we came upon the Tianchi Lake, 1,980 metres above sea level, with water over 100 metres deep, occupying an area of 4.9 square kilometres. In terms of size, it is not large, yet it has the charm of a highland lake.

Half way down the undulating snow-crowned peaks were deep green pine forests stretching all the way into the valley below. When we left Urümqi, in the mid-summer heat we were sweating profusely; now, we felt the chill of cold winter and had to change into eiderdown coats.

Carrying the necessary supplies on my back and holding an ice pick in hand, I joined members of the glacier study group. To avoid losing someone, four persons of a group were linked up by a nylon rope. We turned left and right to choose our way as we trudged through an area criss-crossed by treacherous and unfathomable cracks on the ice. Then, suddenly, we stopped by a sparkling ice cliff — a beautiful ice "waterfall"!

Climbing up the ice cliff, we found ourselves in an incredible crystal world. Right on the glacier are numerous ice pagodas, which seemed to be carved out of a beautiful marble stone, but were transparently clear in variegated elegant poses. It was nothing but a natural wonder sculptured by a godly axe!

Twenty Glaciers Over a Hundred Metres Thick

I learned from our scientists that above the snow line there were numerous glaciers of varying sizes and thickness. A silver ribbon girdles Bogda Peak at an altitude of 4,000 metres. This is a 5,000-metre-long and 2,000-metre-wide giant cirque glacier which took form hundreds of thousands of years ago.

After we ascended the glacier we were greeted by a world of ice and snow, crystal and pure. More than 100 streams of melting ice and snow rushed down along the ice cliffs. In this crystal world, there were ice rivers, ice ditches, ice bridges, ice wells, ice mushrooms, ice fountains and so on. There were also moraine and other types of lakes of varying sizes as if pieces of blue jade were inlaid on the belts of the graceful snow peaks.

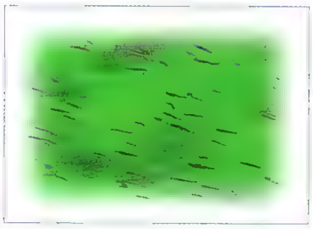
Even in a cold world like this, life is present. On the ice surface, we

Previous page: Bogda Peak is one of Xinjiang's landmarks.

1. **The inspection team marching towards Bogda Peak**
2. **A Kazak tour guide by the Tianchi Lake**
3. **The road leading to Bogda Peak**
4. **A break during the inspection journey**

saw spiders, butterflies, beautiful birds, snow cocks and ducks. On the mountain slopes facing the sun, snow lotuses were in full bloom. Their intoxicating fragrance, swept by the gentle breeze, assailed our nostrils.

According to scientific studies, there are altogether more than 20 glaciers around the Bogda Peak, with an average thickness of more than 100 metres, each running several kilometres. These glaciers and their melting waters flow continually into the oases on both sides of the mountain, nourishing the land and fields.



The silver girdle that runs around the middle of Bogda Peak at an altitude of 4,000 metres is actually a 5,000-metre-long and 2,000-metre-wide giant cirque glacier which took shape hundreds of thousands of years ago.

More Than 300 Kinds of Wild Plants

Listed as a protected area in the international biosphere, the Bogda Nature Reserve consists of two parts: the Tianchi Lake Nature Reserve and the Research Zone of the Wasteland Biology Station at Fukang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In the nature reserve, there are many rivers fed by melting glaciers which are known as "natural solid reservoirs". They irrigate the land, and provide water for agriculture and animal husbandry.

Across the mountain slopes, in the river valleys or by the rivers and streams, you will come into contact with virgin forests of Tianshan dragon spruces, Xinjiang cypresses, highland poplars, Tianshan birches and forests of mixed varieties which simply stretch and roll with the mountain on and on to the horizon. Botanists have also found the area a treasure house of Chinese traditional medicinal herbs with as many as 369 kinds of wild plants, including those of great medicinal value such as *dangshen*, the root of straight ladybell, fritillary bulb, Chinese angelica, day lily, rough gentian, cymbidium and Chinese ephedra.

In this highland wilderness, the snow lotus, which is known as the "flower of the Tianshan Mountains", particularly caught my attention. This plant of high medicinal value grows in the rock cracks or on the steep cliffs near the snow line. Tender snow lotus shoots have a strong fragrance. During the blooming season of July and August, the plant reveals itself in charming fist-size blossoms of yellow and purple.

Horse Hooves Scare Wild Animals

I left the botanists and went to the zoologists' camp on horseback. On my two days of travelling, I saw many species of wild animals, such as snow leopards, silver foxes, goats, swans, snow cocks, red deer, hares, snow weasels, marmots, lynxes, argali, Mongolian gazelles, roe deer, wolves, bears, wild boars and eagles. Disturbed by the sound of the hooves of the galloping horse, they all fled.

Near the snow line at about 4,000 metres above sea level we ran into a snow leopard. Living on the altitudes of 3,000 to 6,000 metres, the snow leopard feeds on wild goats, blue sheep, roe deer, ground squirrels, hares and other small animals. As soon as it disappeared, a flock of north mountain goats emerged on the grassland. The goats live on the bare rocks at about 4,000 to 5,000 metres altitude. Usually in groups of a dozen with a seven- or eight-year-old male leader, they feed on the highland grassland at dawn and dusk.

The plants and animals at Bogda were not only a feast to my eye, they served as a textbook of nature and increased my knowledge.

Translated by F. Huang

4

1. **Crazy about the snow lily**
2. **Huge snow lily plants growing near the snow line**
3. **Camping below a glacier**
4. **The clouds whirl when the wind rises.**

Chronicle of the Rescue Mission for the Lost HK Mountaineers

Climbing up to rescue the lost members

After receiving the report that three Hong Kong mountaineers were lost, the Xinjiang Mountaineers' Association immediately established the rescue centre. A rescue group of six people set off in the evening that day (August 17) and arrived at Tianchi Lake at 4:00 a.m. the next morning. They travelled in the rain and reached the campsite the same day, where they discussed the rescue plan with people from Hong Kong. August 19, they reached 3,900 metres high; the next day, they arrived at Campsite No. 3 at 4,700 metres, where they found a tent buried deep in the snow, with only the tip showing. Inside they found the supplies of the lost mountaineers. At that time the weather worsened considerably and the rescue group, after doing some tiring and fruitless searching, made an emergence withdrawal.

August 20, a Black Eagle military helicopter continued this rescue mission. It flew up to 5,000 metres above sea level, 300-400 metres above the mountain, and searched for two hours with aerial telescopes, but found no traces of them.

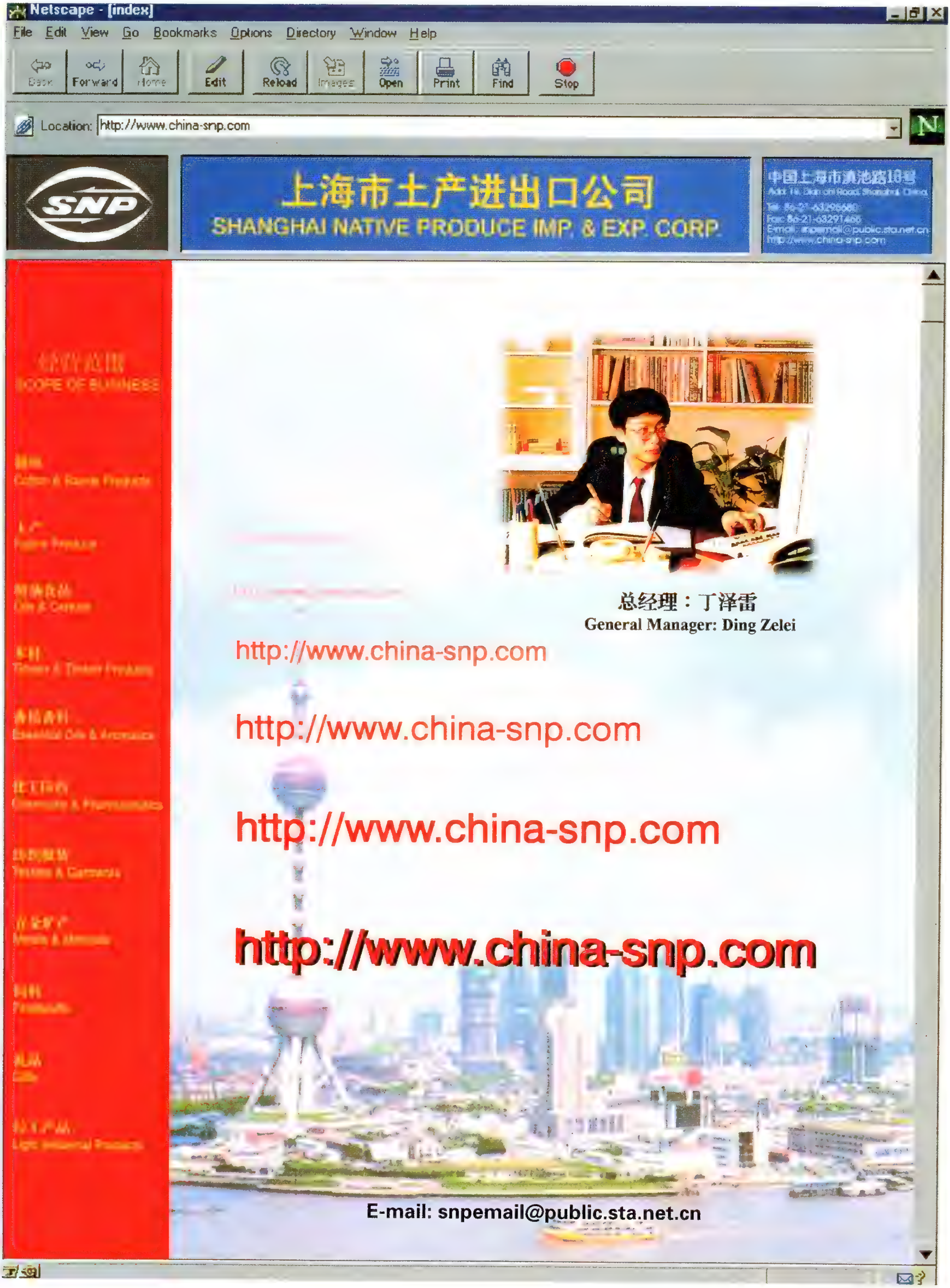
August 23, the rescue centre in Urümqi received the message from the campsite that the temperature on the mountain was dropping dramatically and the snow was very deep, so it had become very difficult to continue the search. The next day, eight rescue members from Hong Kong, together with relatives of the lost persons, arrived in Urümqi and began their rescue work.

August 28, Li Zhixin, a mountaineer who had conquered the world's highest peak, the Qomolangma, flew from Beijing to Xinjiang and arrived at the campsite, with another mountaineer Ma Xingqiang. After 16 days' hard work at the altitude of 5,000 metres, the rescuers still could find nothing. The rescue members from Hong Kong returned home on September 3.

Experts hold that there are two possibilities that caused the loss of the mountaineers' lives. One is that the three of them slipped down a slope together and were buried by snow; the other is that they were overtired when they climbed from 4,700 metres to the summit, and were frozen to death while sleeping at night. The latter is most probable.

(Pictures in this box are courtesy of Hong Kong Ngok Fung Rock Climbing Society)

The lost Hong Kong mountaineers



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The fine array of bed-linen is one of the three main categories of export products made by the Orient International (Holding) Shanghai Home Textiles Import & Export Co. Ltd., with export turnover accounting for one-third of the company's business. The "Hometex" bedclothes — bedspreads, pillow cases and quilt covers — incorporate innovative design with superb workmanship. Made with advanced techniques, these quality products enjoy a high reputation at home and abroad.

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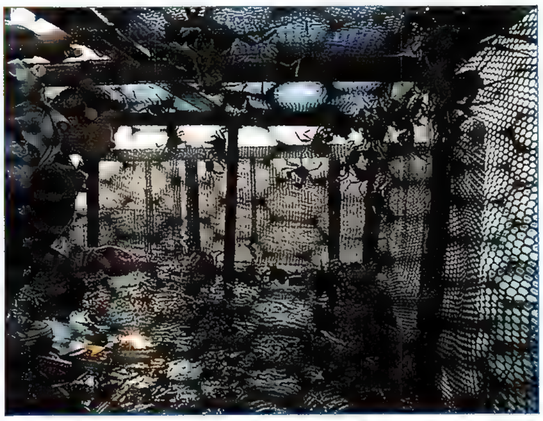
BIG GATE CRABS

OF YANGCHENG LAKE

Photos [illegible] Wu [illegible]

When autumn comes, many people search for some delicious treats. And luckily, autumn is crab season.

In ancient times, fishermen caught crabs at night by building a straw sluice gate in the lake and turning on a fisherman's light. Crabs were attracted to the light and climbed up onto the gate; in this way great numbers of them were easily caught in one night. The crab has thus got its name — Big Gate Crab. A type of freshwater crab, Big Gate Crab is distributed all over China. In autumn, most rivers and lakes have crabs in abundance; the most famous is that cultivated in Yangcheng Lake in East China's Jiangsu Province. In Hong Kong, a gourmet's haven known world-wide, signboards with the words "Big Gate Crab of Yangcheng Lake" are hung in front of restaurants and food markets during the crab season. From September to November each year Hong Kong people consume over one million crabs.



A Land of Rice and Fish

On an October morning, the aquatic market in Bacheng Town by Yangcheng Lake was very busy. It was packed with fish stalls and customers inside and many trucks were parked outside. At every stall there were baskets of bubbling Big Gate Crabs. Customers were bargaining and sellers pressing calculators. Zhou Jinlong, a man in his 30s, packed his 50 kilograms of crabs into a dozen straw bags and sold all to a big hotel in Shanghai.

"Did you have a good business?" I came over and asked.

"It is a crab harvest year, so the price is very low," Zhu Yuanmei, Zhou's wife, replied, putting her money into the pocket.

"Are you going to catch crabs tonight?"

They smiled. "Now crabs are cultivated. We can catch them anytime," she said.

"When? Can I go with you?"

"Six o'clock, tomorrow morning, at Qingshui Bay."

Early the following morning, I walked through a frost-beaten vegetable field towards Qingshui Bay. A few small boats were floating on the lake in mist, and the fences for crab cultivation were dimly visible. Under a willow which swung its branches over the lake were anchored several wooden boats. In this very attractive scene, Zhou Jinlong and his wife were on their boat eating breakfast. After breakfast, as Mrs. Zhou washed up in the lake water, I noticed that the water was so clear that I could see the bottom. Small fish quickly came over to contend for the food leftovers. "What a land of rice and fish!" I said to myself.

Yangcheng Lake Big Gate Crabs Almost Disappeared

I sat with Mr. Zhou at the bow and Mrs. Zhou peddled at stern. The small boat rocked like a cradle out of the bay. Yangcheng Lake came into view and the sky and the water melted together in one colour. Yangcheng Lake lies in southern Jiangsu, crossing Suzhou City, and Kunshan and Wuxian counties, and is divided into east, central and west lakes. When he was a child, Mr. Zhou told me, there were lots of wild crabs in the lake. Walking around the lake in the night with a lantern, crabs would climb up and it was easy to pick up a full basket of crabs in a few hours.

"They were very cheap at that time. One yuan could buy one kilo. Even then, nobody ate them," Mrs. Zhou remarked from behind.

"Since the 1980s, dams, reservoirs and other water conservancy projects have been built, blocking the route for the crabs to lay eggs

Previous page: With claws and feet bound close to the body, the crab meat does not become too soft in cooking.
Previous page, insert: "Temporary raising" fattens the crabs up.

1. **When autumn comes, hotels and restaurants in Shanghai send people to Yangcheng Lake to purchase the Big Gate Crabs.**
2. **In autumn, many fishermen move their home onto the boat to care for the cultivated crabs.**
3. **Net crab cultivation has been applied in the whole of Yangcheng Lake.**
4. **Two big ones (one male, one female) can sell for 120 yuan at great demand.**

1. In January, fishermen put button-sized crab fry in their nets, and the 60 percent that survive will mature by October.
2. The local villagers make nets in their spare time.
3. At sunset, fishermen return home with basket-loads of crabs.

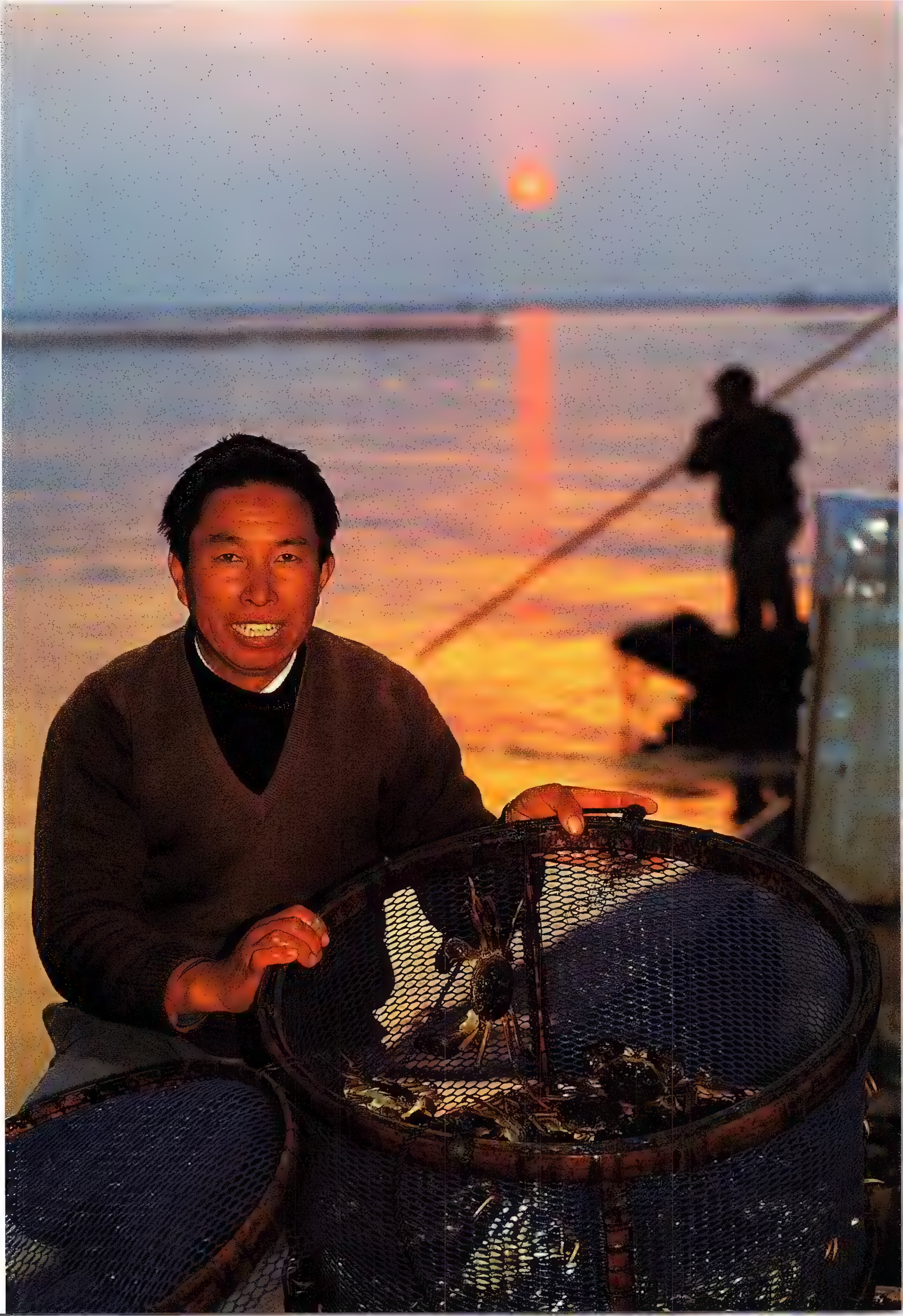
in the sea via the Yangtse River," Zhou recalled. "This also destroyed the natural environment for crab fry coming back. In addition, the excessive use of agricultural chemicals also depleted the wild crabs. Their size became much smaller but the price was higher. In 1992, the government tried to put crab fry into the lake, but the local fishermen would catch them even before they were mature. Later a contract responsibility system was introduced and now we have this harvest."

Looking around, the vast lake was partitioned by encircled fences into many crab cultivation areas. Every January, the fishermen of Yangcheng Lake put button-sized crab fry into their own areas. The young crabs shed their shells every 10 to 14 days while their weight doubles each time. But not all the crabs reach maturity; only about 60 percent of them survive to September or October.

Our small boat rowed close to the encircled fence which was fastened to thick bamboo rods. Mr. Zhou pressed the green nylon net a bit lower and our boat slid into the "gate". "This is my area," he said proudly. Five years ago, the Zhous started to cultivate crabs on a contract basis. Each year they expanded their production and now their water area had increased to 10 hectares.

Distinctive Crab Features

The crab fry on the market are mainly from Liaoning, Yangtse River and Fujian. Of all these the ones from Yangtse are the best. In the past, the fishermen of Yangcheng Lake all used Yangtse crab fry, but now some fishermen also use Liaoning crab fry, because they mature earlier and can be harvested in September, though they are smaller. Yangtse crabs mature about one month



later, but their meat is more delicious and they contain more eggs or sperm.

"What are the special features of Yangcheng Big Gate Crabs?" I asked.

"In general, they should have green-grey shells, white undersides, yellow hair and golden claws," Mr. Zhou answered.

Zhou leaned out of the boat, caught a plastic buoy and gradually hoisted a cage from the bottom of the water. The cage was made of iron bars and net like a lantern. Bait was put inside, with a cone-shaped opening on one side; once inside, the crab is trapped. He pulled a crab — its mouth open menacingly and its claws brandished — out of the cage. "Look at this," he held it up to me. It had exactly the green-grey shell, white underside, yellow hair and golden claws he just mentioned.

"Is it true that crabs can walk on glass?"

"Yes, they have stronger legs because the bottom of Yangcheng Lake is very hard," he nodded.

"Why the best crabs are 'round in September and pointed in October'?"

"The female crab (its abdomen has a rounded section) matures in the ninth month and the male one (its abdomen has a pointed section) matures in the tenth month of the lunar calendar. The important thing is how to choose."

Mr. Zhou took out a crab, presses it on the board with his right hand while his fingers held its claws and feet. He moved the index finger of his left hand in front of the crab's eyes. The crab's eyes withdrew immediately and quickly, showing that the crab was very lively. He then nipped at the second joint of its last leg. If it is full, it is a meaty crab. Looking at its underside — if it is pure white, the crab is fat; if it is white with a bit of yellow, the crab is full of eggs. It is up to the diner to make the choice.

Stabilised Crab Prices

Our small boat rowed alongside the buoys, and Mr. Zhou checked every basket. We were happy to see that almost all had crabs inside. Strangely, he only picked the large ones but threw the small ones back into the lake. "Why don't you want these?" I asked. Zhou said, "They are too small to sell at a good price. It'll be different two weeks later." Yangcheng Lake crabs are classified into different categories: big crabs about 250g each; medium ones about 200g each; small ones 100-150g each. Different categories bring different prices. Two big ones (one male, one female) can sell for 120 yuan at great demand. But small ones can only sell for 100 yuan per kilogram. This was why Mr. Zhou had "mercy" with the small ones. The crabs were put into two baskets separating males and females, weighing 25 kilograms together.

"It's not a good harvest. We get more than 50 kilograms some days," Mr. Zhou said.

"Wow! You make a lot money in a year!" I was surprised.

"Over 200,000 yuan," he said and raised his head in pride.

Looking ashore, there were rows of villas in mild colours. "Those in the north were built by a Shanghai real estate company and the first

1. **Fan Li, a politician at the end of Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), was said to be the first to taste crabs.**
2. **A crab statue stands on the Yangcheng lakeside at Bacheng Town.**
3. **A local fisherman off to the early morning aquatic market**
4. **Each cage can hold 75 kilograms of crabs. When there are too many crabs on the market, they are kept back until they can be sold at a good price.**
5. **Small crabs are less in demand and fetch lower prices, so fishermen often throw them back.**

4

5

batch has almost been sold. Those in the south are Yangcheng Lake Holiday Inn built by the township," Zhou Jinlong pointed out. "We wish more people would invest here. More investment, more income for us." Mrs. Zhou smiled.

After the small boat anchored at the bank, they did not immediately go to the aquatic market. Mr. Zhou hoisted two wardrobe-sized net cages from the water and opened the top to put in all the crabs they had caught. His wife crushed a basin of snails and clams and threw them all into the cage. "Why don't they sell them?" I asked myself. Seeing the doubts in my face, Mr. Zhou said, "This 'temporary raising' is to let crabs get enough nutrition and to be fattened. Each cage can hold 75 kilograms. When there are too many crabs on the market, we do this, reserving them for the time when there are less crabs. This helps stabilise the price and control the supply. We separate the male from the female to prevent mating and increase weight."

"Many people from Shanghai and Suzhou will be here for the weekend. They actually come to eat crabs." Mr. Zhou smiled heartily.

"Of course, I myself also came for the crabs."

"Let go and have lunch together," Mrs. Zhou suggested. We all laughed.

The Best Crab Feast of My Life

The Zhous lived in a three-storey villa house, its walls, decorated with porcelain tiles, glittering in the sun. Mr. Zhou invited me to visit his house, where he had a dining room and a kitchen on the first floor, a living room with a "family cinema" hi-fi system on the second floor, and the master room and a study on the third floor. Before I noticed, Mr. Zhou rode his motorcycle to the town to buy some Shaoxing rice wine, which he believed to be a must for a crab meal.

In the kitchen, Mrs. Zhou was busy — pressing a crab down on the chopping board, her fingers tightly holding its claws and legs, she opened its abdomen and inserted a piece of ginger. She then bound it with dried rice straw. In less than five minutes, all the six crabs were done. She then proceeded to steam them, saying, "Ginger helps to reduce the 'coldness', and binding keeps the claws and feet close to the body so that the meat doesn't become too soft in cooking."

Soon the kitchen was filled with the aroma of crabs and a full plate was on the table. Mr. Zhou took out handy crab hammers and pincers which were handed down from his ancestors. I drank the Shaoxing wine and ate the crab, in a gratified mood. Afterwards, Mrs. Zhou got a handful of moxa grass from the courtyard, minced it, and invited me to wash my hands with it to eliminate the crab smell. This was definitely the best crab feast in my life.

The Zhous planned to build a large boat the following year to open a "crab tour" together with a local travel agency. There will be an "crab-eating competition", with a prize for the winner.

Translated by M. Q.

1. **Ginger helps reduce the "coldness", and binding keeps the claws and feet close to the body and prevents the meat becoming too soft.**
2. **Many people from Shanghai come here for the weekend often primarily to eat crabs.**
3. **At dusk, fishing boats return home.**

Tips for Tasting Big Gate Crabs

Look for these features for a fresh and delicious crab: its claws and legs move energetically, its eyes wink nimbly, and it forms foam at the mouth. If the claws and legs respond slowly, the crab is going to die. A dead crab is inedible; it will do you more harm than good. The crabs should not be exposed to the wind. Normally, they are wrapped with dried straw and stored in the fridge covered with a wet cloth.

Both boiling and steaming can retain the sweet freshness of the crabs. If you intend to eat them boiled, you should cook them for 15-20 minutes with high heat after the water is boiled. When eating Big Gate Crabs, you are recommended to dip the meat in a finely-diced ginger and red vinegar sauce which helps to reduce the "coldness" as well as to make it more delicious. After tasting the crabs, you are suggested to drink some sugar tea brewed with a piece of ginger, again to reduce the "coldness". To remove the fishy smell on the hands, you can rub them with chrysanthemum petals or even toothpaste followed by washing with tea. It is not advisable to eat crabs together with persimmons because they are both considered as "cold" foods according to traditional Chinese medicine and may lead to an uncomfortable feeling in the stomach.

It is really enjoyable to eat crabs while drinking some wine. The ideal wine to go with Big Gate Crabs is Shaoxing rice wine. This wine brings out the real flavour of the crabs — nothing else will do.

This year Yangcheng Lake enjoyed a good harvest of Big Gate Crabs. The quality ranks first of all the years and the quantity marks an increase compared with last year.

Tips for the Traveller

Bacheng Town, situated on the east coast of Yangcheng Lake, is 20 kilometres from Suzhou city proper. Buses depart daily from Suzhou Bus Terminal for Bacheng. Bacheng enjoys mild weather all year round with an average temperature of 15˚C, making it an ideal tourist spot anytime. If you come in autumn, you can catch up with the crab season. The Gloria Plaza Hotel, Yadu Hotel and Suzhou Hotel in Suzhou offer Big Gate Crab Feasts every October.

1. **Suzhou Hotel:** 115 Shiquan Street, Suzhou
Tel: (512) 5204646
Fax: (512) 5204015
2. **Yadu Hotel:** 156 Sanxiang Road, Suzhou
Tel: (512) 8291888
Fax: (512) 8291838
3. **Gloria Plaza Hotel:** 535 Ganjiang Road East, Suzhou
Tel: (512) 5218855
Fax: (512) 5218533

Did you know

- that Buddhist statues are found on the famous holy ground of Taoism, the Qingcheng Mountain?
- that the face of Qingcheng Mountain is noted for its tranquillity while the rear is famous for its graceful scenery?
- that a master Taoist of the Han Dynasty, a princess of the Tang Dynasty, a peasant rebellion leader, a famous 20th century painter, and a patriotic general have all left their legacies at this famed mountain?

To learn more about the mountain, simply follow me.

A sea of clouds at the Qingcheng Mountain (by Dao Yuan)

SEARCHING FOR THE QINGCHENG MOUNTAIN STORY

Photos & article by Mu Yao

Located within the boundary of Dujiangyan City in Sichuan Province, the Qingcheng Mountain is a major national scenic spot. Interestingly, as early as in the Qin Dynasty over 2,000 years ago, the mountain, then called Dushan, was listed as one of the holy mountains for sacrificial ceremonies. Several hundred years later, Zhang Ling established Taoism here. Today, visitors can not only marvel at the mountain's tranquillity, but can also take a tour of the many legacies left by noted figures throughout the ages in the area where Taoist culture was crystallised.

The cable car goes right to the top of the mountain.

The Flag Pole Stone and Revenge Valley

The tour usually begins with a cable car ride up the front of Qingcheng Mountain. About one kilometre from the cable car terminus is the gate to Shangqing Palace.

Few people know that near Shangqing Palace, there are such sites as the Horse Racing Court, Flag Pole Stone and Revenge Valley. The Horse Racing Court was where Zhang Xianzhong, leader of the peasant rebellion army near the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), drilled his troops, yet now no trace remains here.

Near the archway is the army's Flag Pole Stone. It is so overgrown with grass that you need to scratch away the grass to see the sixty-centimetre-wide square notch for the pole.

Deep in the dense woods and long grass is the Revenge Valley, a ditch about two metres wide. Descending into the bottom of the gully you will find it only a hundred steps long and increasingly narrower at the bottom; one end leads up the mountain and the other into an unfathomable deep cave. The gruesome story is that Zhang Xianzhong's army supposedly executed a number of their enemies here.

Magic Lights

"Magic lights", a unique sight at Shangqing Palace, are actually phosphorescent emissions. Ancient documents have recorded: "During the night at Shangqing Palace lights of magic forces darted about the sky." Ancient poet Lu You once even climbed on top of the palace to view the lights and wrote the poem *Spending the Night at Shangqing Palace*.

The magic lights do not appear every evening, nor are they

About the Author

Mu Yao grew up in Beijing but, having spent more than 20 years in Sichuan, is very familiar with tourism resources there. He loves travel and photography, and often writes travel stories.

consist in scale. Whether you can see lights mysteriously darting over the mountain depends on the weather and your luck.

Master Painter's Favourite

Shangqing Palace houses a large number of objects of great cultural value. The sculpture of the Taoist Supreme Lord in the main hall, the 5,000-character-long Classics of the Virtue of Tao carved on wood, the bas-relief images of nine dragons, and the wells of Mandarin Duck, Magu and Tianshi, and many others, all have their distinctive stories.

But it is this century's master painter, Zhang Daqian, who has left behind the most. The two stone tablets in the Hall of Cultural Prowess and Military Art are carved with three of his paintings: *Lady Huarui, The Heavenly Mother Queen* and *Portrait of a Virgin*. Other tablets also carry inscriptions in his hand-writing. The painter visited Qingcheng Mountain several times, staying for over four years in total; he created nearly 1,000 paintings on the mountain.

A Princess' Hermitage

Going down from the Shangqing Palace, passing through the "Three Turns and Nine Curves", you soon arrive at the Master's Hall. This hall is relatively isolated; throughout the ages people came here to study Taoism and live in seclusion. Even Princess Yuzhen of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) came to live as a Taoist nun, and eventually died here. Unfortunately all the associated cultural relics have been destroyed except the "Flying Dragon Tripod" with which the princess tried to produce immortality pills. Today, the tripod is kept in the Fulong Temple at Dujiangyan.

Inscriptions of an Anti-Japanese General

Leaning against a wall of the Master's Hall is a stone tablet called "Learning About Victory" with text written by General Feng Yuxiang in 1945. Overwhelmed on hearing of the Japanese surrender, the general wrote these words: "News of victory brought tears to my eyes. We have now won after eight years of tenacious struggle. Finally, we have rid ourselves of our long humiliation. How can I not be overjoyed with this great event of national celebration!"

A Taoist monk from Shangqing Palace picking tea leaves

The main hall of Tai'an Temple

On the rear of the mountain stands the Pavilion of Learning About Victory which is rundown. General Feng's writings can also be found in several other spots. In the Tianshi (Heavenly Teacher) Cave, his rhyme has been carved in stone.

Competition Between Taoism and Buddhism

Changdao Temple is popularly known as the Heavenly Teacher Cave because behind it is the cave dwelling of Zhang Ling, founder of Taoism. On the path down the mountain, you first go through the Pen Throwing Ditch, a crack in the mountain about 70 metres deep. One story says that Zhang Ling defended his territory by drawing the boundary on the mountain; at the tip of his brush, the mountain cracked.

In the Hall of Three Kings, a Tang-dynasty stone tablet, referred to as the "mountain-stabilising treasure", is covered by a glass case. Although difficult to see clearly, it records a major historical event of the mountain. During her reign, Empress Wu Zetian made Buddhism the only official religion. Buddhists then came and took Changdao Temple, starting a long-standing dispute between the two religions here. Eventually the Taoist monks' pleas reached Emperor Xuanzong, grandson of Empress Wu, who insisted that Taoists be allowed to return and Buddhist temples only be built outside the mountain; only then did the dispute quieten down.

The Legend of a Fragrant River

It is a drive of over a dozen kilometres to the rear of Qingcheng Mountain. The gate marking the rear entrance aptly announces"Elegant Beauty Lies in the Rear of Qingcheng Mountain ". A small stream called Weijiang, or Fragrant River, runs parallel to the meandering road. Why does

Riding in bamboo sedan chairs

it have such a name? Legend says the king of the ancient Kingdom of Shu came here for an inspection and was greeted by the folks with wine. The king did not drink the wine all by himself; instead, he poured it into the river to share the spirit with all his men. The stream has been fragrant ever since.

Tai'an Temple's Breathtaking Story

The rear of the Qingcheng Mountain is the holy ground of Buddhism. Tai'an Temple is the largest of all the Buddhist temples. Its two front courtyards have been rebuilt; only the Mahavira Hall still maintains its original framework dating back to the Qing Dynasty.

The temple, first built during the Tang Dynasty, was in its prime during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). At one time over 25,000 senior monks and countless junior disciples lived here; for temple repairs they would all stand in a gigantic line stretching several kilometres to pass bricks and tiles by hand.

Today the Tai'an Temple has over a dozen resident monks. In addition to religious activities, they also engage in diverse businesses, earning enough to live comfortably.

The Immortal Air of White Cloud Temple

Near the Tai'an Temple a cable car takes visitors up to the White Cloud Village where three-storey bungalows in ancient architectural style dominate the landscape. Further uphill are the several hundred White Cloud Caves of all sizes spread on the cliffs at an altitude of 1,700 metres. During recent repair work more than 2,000 Buddha statues have been sculpted in the caves, hence the name Ten-Thousand Buddha White Cloud Caves. The Tongtian (Reaching the Sky) Cave is where Monk Bai Yun (White Cloud) reportedly achieved immortality.

Out of Tongtian Cave, through the Heavenly King's Hall and up 465 stairs, you finally reach the highest point — the White Cloud Temple. Destroyed early in this century, the temple was rebuilt recently. It houses the Hall of Trikala Buddha, Hall of the Goddess of Mercy and statues of Bai Yun and some of his disciples. The temple is not large, but perfectly located, with an air of immortality and godly spirit. This, coupled with orderly management, gives the impression that it is a place of great holiness.

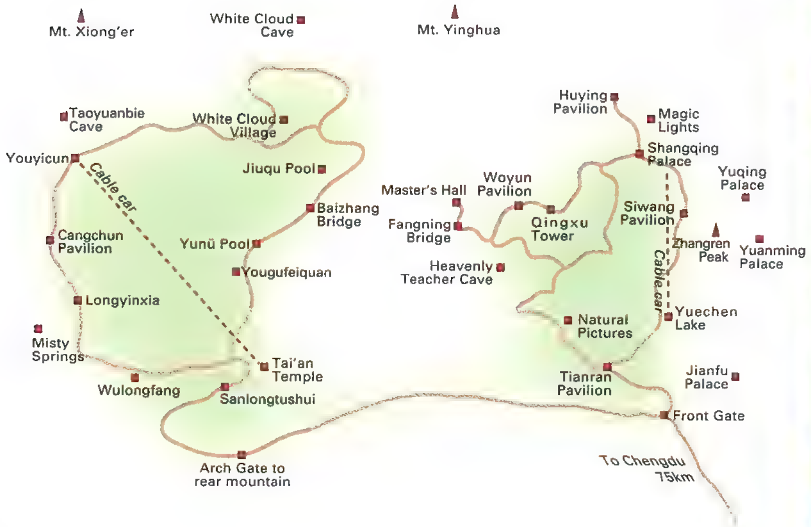
Translated by F. Huang

Tips for the Traveller

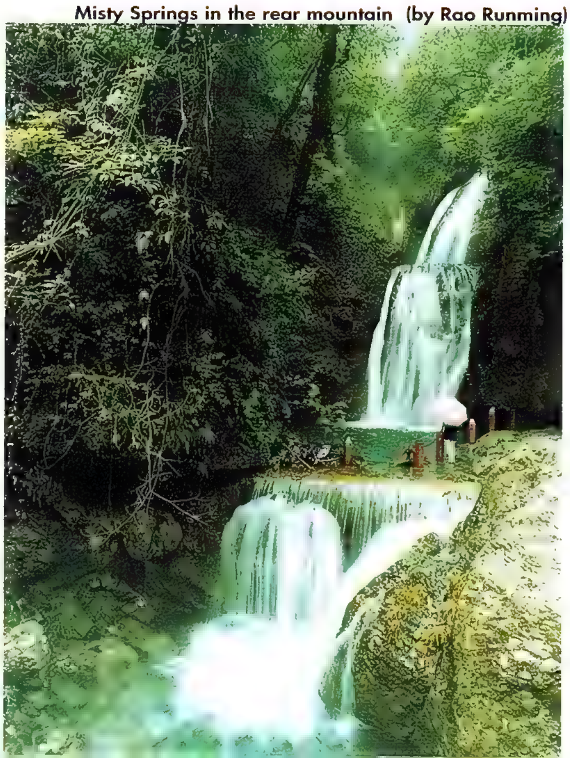
From Ximen Station in Chengdu shuttle buses take about an hour and half to the front of Qingcheng Mountain. From Dujiangyan, buses leave every 30 minutes for the 20-minute ride to the mountain.

Accommodations, including resort hotels, in both the front and rear parts of the mountain are plentiful, and offer a unique experience. Shangqing Palace, Heavenly Teacher Cave, Master's Hall, Yuanming Palace on the front of the mountain and Youyicun, White Cloud Village and White Cloud Temple in the rear part offer overnight lodging.

Touring Qingcheng Mountain in one day will allow you only enough time to see sites on the front part while three days allows you to see both the front and rear parts, a chance to do some mountain hiking or to travel in a bamboo sedan chair, and time to see some interesting sites on the surrounding mountains.



Misty Springs in the rear mountain (by Rao Runming)



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BAOZI – STEAMED BUNS FILLED WITH MINCED MEAT AND GRAVY

Photo by Yang Yankang
Article by Zheng Jiang

At a market place called Majiashizi in Xi'an, there is a small grey-brick building facing a prosperous food street. Inside, small bamboo steamers are piled up like pagodas from where a fragrant steam drifts out into the street, enticing the passers-by. This is the Jia-Family Baozi Restaurant, which specialises in steamed buns filled with minced meat and gravy.

A Frequent Customer Became an Orthodox Manager

Interestingly, the famous Jia-Family steamed buns are not an orthodox heritage handed down by the Jia Family. It is said that about 100 years ago, a Hui family surnamed Ma moved from Henan to Xi'an, where they established a restaurant specialising in delicate stuffed buns cooked in small bamboo steamers. The business was very prosperous. But after managing the restaurant for two generations, the Ma Family moved back to Henan, and the restaurant in Xi'an closed down. The fragrant smell of the stuffed buns disappeared.

In the 1980s many old traditional shops in the ancient city were restored and opened for business once again. But the Ma Family had no descendants in Xi'an. However, out of the blue a man named Jia Jingye came forward, put up a sign and restored the Ma-Family Restaurant for Steamed Stuffed Buns. He went further, introducing the Jia-Family Baozi later. The buns started out on a trial basis, but within a few years they had became a delicacy of Xi'an.

The Jia Family inherited the Ma's recipes. Originally, the Jia's ancestors were not only the neighbours and friends of the Mas, but also frequent customers of the Ma-Family Restaurant.

Thin Wrapper, Juicy Stuffing

The wrappers are made of a fine wheat flour dough. The thickness of the wrappers is vital. Too thin and they easily break; too thick and they lose their transparency, flavour and shape.

The meat must be of the highest quality. If the stuffing is beef, it must be from the ribs of an ox raised in Shaanxi. The meat is first minced, and then put into an ox-bone soup and stirred. All of the work must be done by hand. After the meat is prepared, some vegetables are added, according to the season. In winter green Chinese onion and cabbage are the best choice, while in summer onion and cauliflower are used. Gravy is very important for baozi. While most people know it is made by boiling ox-bone soup till it becomes a milky liquid, they are generally unaware of what ingredients and seasonings are used. This is because, like the magician's illusion, its secrets are never revealed.

There is a very particular way to going about eating baozi: you raise the baozi from the steamer, bite a little hole from one side, carefully pour the gravy inside onto a spoon and then slowly place the bun into your mouth. As you chew the bun, you enjoy the refreshing taste.

The 18-course Muslim Baozi Banquet

The Jia-Family baozi has developed over the past decade, forming a great variety of different stuffings. The Jia-Family Restaurant has also initiated the "Muslim Baozi Banquet". The first of its kind in China, the banquet serves 18 courses of buns, some made of meat, some vegetables, some steamed, some fried, some salty, some sweet, some in the shapes of a flower, a crescent moon or a walnut, and others with folds or breaches on them. Each is exquisitely made.

Because of the excellent selection of materials, ingredients and seasonings, combined with the unique cooking and immediate consumption, the Jia-Family Baozi has become known far and wide.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

About the Author

Zheng Jiang is a reporter for a Xi'an newspaper on business information. He has written about all kinds of food and is very familiar with many Xi'an local dishes and the stories behind them.

FIGHTING A SEX MANIAC ON THE SLEEPER BUS

Photo by Li Zhixiong Article by Hua Yu

Since a trip in 1997, I have become very timid and have set myself a rule: avoid travelling alone, and do not take night sleeper buses unless you have no other choice.

One autumn afternoon, I travelled on a night sleeper bus from Chengdu to Kunming. I took the top bunk. As there was not much space between the bed and the roof of the bus, I lay there for almost the entire trip, which took several days. Despite the jolts and bumps of the bus, I dozed off. Half asleep, I felt safe because the male traveller who had taken the sleeper beside mine seemed modest and courteous. It was a pity he got off midway. With it, my poor luck began.

Another man took the vacancy. During the trip, he kept pressing at me, closer and closer.

To get away from him, I gave up some space. But he seemed to be insatiable, pressing still closer, obviously with nasty intent. As it was dark, I could not see his face clearly. Yet I had a feeling that something bad was going to happen. I pushed hard with my elbow in an attempt to recover some of the lost space, and turned to sleep at the other end. I had hardly gone to sleep when I heard a rustling — the scoundrel had come to sleep at the same end as I. I felt I had come to the end of my tether and simply wanted to cry. But I knew I had came across a bad guy and had to rest contented with my poor luck.

I wrapped the blanket tightly around myself and put my clothes between us. I knew there was no one to help, I simply had to rely on myself. I was filled with anger but did my best to suppress it, warning myself to keep calm.

When night fell, the scoundrel beside me was tired. He fell asleep, snoring like a hog, yet he pressed his heavy arm on my left shoulder. I forcefully pushed at him, but he was very heavy. Struggling to sit up, I looked out of the bus. It was still pitch black. Oh, God! It would take another 20 hours for me to get home and there were still eight hours until daylight! Haunted by frustration, I fell into an uneasy sleep.

I woke with a start from a nightmare: I dreamt I had met a snake, its green skin lined with neat dots. Sticking out its vicious tongue, it charged at me and wrapped itself tightly around my body. My eyes shot open. The scoundrel was awake, lighting a cigarette. In the light of the flame, I saw his ugly face.

A sixth sense told me that I had indeed met a "monster". Fortunately, it was not too long till morning. I placed my hope in daylight and began to sober-mindedly work out how I was going to deal with him.

My first idea was to appear polite and gentle towards him. With daylight approaching, more people on the bus would be awake and he should behave himself. Under these circumstances, I did my best to be cordial and spoke to him. However, the chap would not go for it. He pretended to be asleep and pressed at me hard. Moreover, he began to extend his hands into my space.

I had no choice but to play it hard. I had brought a Swiss army knife with me, that I was very attached to. I secretly took the knife out and opened the blade. I then cut a hole in the blanket and pointed the sharp point towards his side.

With these precautions, I gave up my policy of appeasement. Having carefully worked out the knife's angle, I lay down at ease.

I went to sleep again at dawn. Suddenly, I was woken by a sharp cry and made out the scoundrel moving away quickly. He had obviously been hurt by the knife. He stared at me menacingly but could do or say nothing. For the rest of the trip, he was peaceful and quiet, curling up lazily in his corner. I still kept the knife firmly in hand though, until the monster got off midway.

My adventure on the night sleeper bus came to an end and I arrived safely in Kunming. However, the trip ended on another bad point when I unfortunately lost my favourite Swiss knife in my haste to leave the bus.

Translated by Li Zhenguo

About the Author

Hua Yu, a young woman, was born in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. She likes to travel in the mountains and designs her own itineraries. Moreover, she loves to take pictures and write travel notes. She has published quite a few articles in this magazine and others, relating to humanistic geography and natural wonders.

BEIJING ARTS & CRAFTS WORLD

A UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Photos by Li You Article by Zhang Hongwei

After three years of reconstruction, the former Beijing Arts & Crafts Service Centre has taken on a new look and reappeared as the Beijing Arts & Crafts World standing at the southern entrance of Wangfujing Street, the busiest commercial street in downtown Beijing.

Occupying a construction area of over 30,000 square metres, the 13-storey building of the Beijing Arts & Crafts World serves as a shop as well as a museum. It not only possesses an extraordinary outlook, but is also installed with an advanced lighting system and specially-designed display windows to highlight the beauty of the exhibits. On display are masterpieces of China's leading crafts production workshops and distinguished masters of arts and crafts.

For example, on the 6th floor of the complex, a total of 400 porcelain masterpieces created by 12 top craftsmen from Jingdezhen are presented. The Treasure Hall on the same floor shows a collection of art treasures of the Beijing Arts & Crafts World, including diverse jade ornaments, carved lacquer ware, enamel ware and many others, totalling 600 pieces gathered from more than 50 companies. More than 200 pieces from other cities and provinces are also displayed here.

On the fourth floor is a 300-square-metre venue selling export tiles of artistic design, Africa's wooden sculpture and leather paintings, as well as fir furniture and original designs of rare stamps. On the first three floors, a fine array of products like embroidery, fur, batik, carpets, furniture, wall decorations and cloth, to name a few, are on offer to tourists.

It is an ideal place for tourists to buy souvenirs. Though many of the art and craft products are from famous producers, not all of them are expensive. A Jingdezhen porcelain vase may cost 10,000 yuan, but a delicate ornament may need just several yuan. Visiting the Beijing Arts & Crafts World you will have a unique experience combining shopping with enjoyment.

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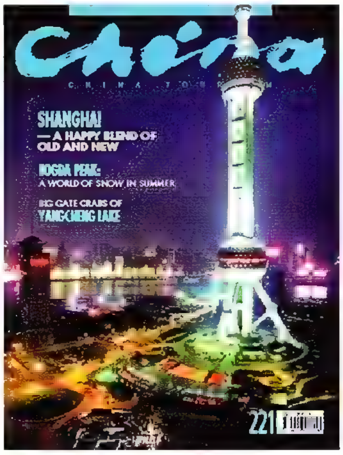
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221

Contents	**Grade** (best)				(worst)	**Comments**
• **Shanghai**	5☐	4☐	3☐	2☐	1☐	
• **Bogda Peak**	5☐	4☐	3☐	2☐	1☐	
• **Big Gate Crabs**	5☐	4☐	3☐	2☐	1☐	
• **Qingcheng Mt. Story**	5☐	4☐	3☐	2☐	1☐	
Overall Impression						
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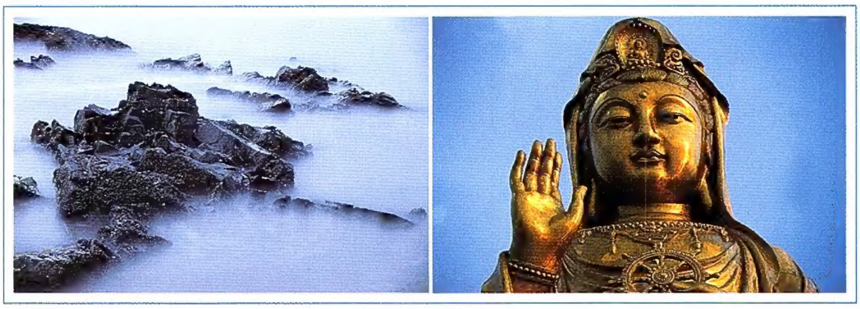
Highlights of Issue No. 221

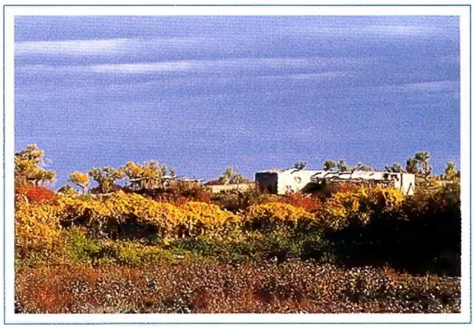

by Shi Baoxiu

Of all the deities, the Bodhisattva Guanyin, or the Goddess of Mercy, attracts the largest number of pilgrims in China. In the cover story for the next issue, we will present to you the new scenes at ***Putuo Island****, in which this ancestral home of South Sea Guanyin is introduced in detail. Popular tourist attractions in the vicinity like Zhujiajian, the Fairy Mountain, Huang Yaoshi's Taohua (Peach Blossom) Island and the seafood market at Shenjiamen are also included.*

It is the time of the year when autumn changes into winter — the ideal season to go bird-watching. The report highlighting ***bird-watching sites*** *will acquaint you with details of a dozen spots inhabited by various migratory birds. We will also share with you the story of a photographer who has been working for more than 10 years to take pictures of these birds.*

by You Yungu

Lop Nur, once the largest lake in Central Asia, has dried up and become a formidable desert. In Issue No. 219, we published the stories of two teams of travellers who successfully traversed Lop Nur in Xinjiang. What about the inhabitants there who, for generations, treated Lop Nur as their hometown? A group of explorers discovered the ***Lop people's descendents*** *in a desert at the lower course of the Tarim River...*


by Song Shijing

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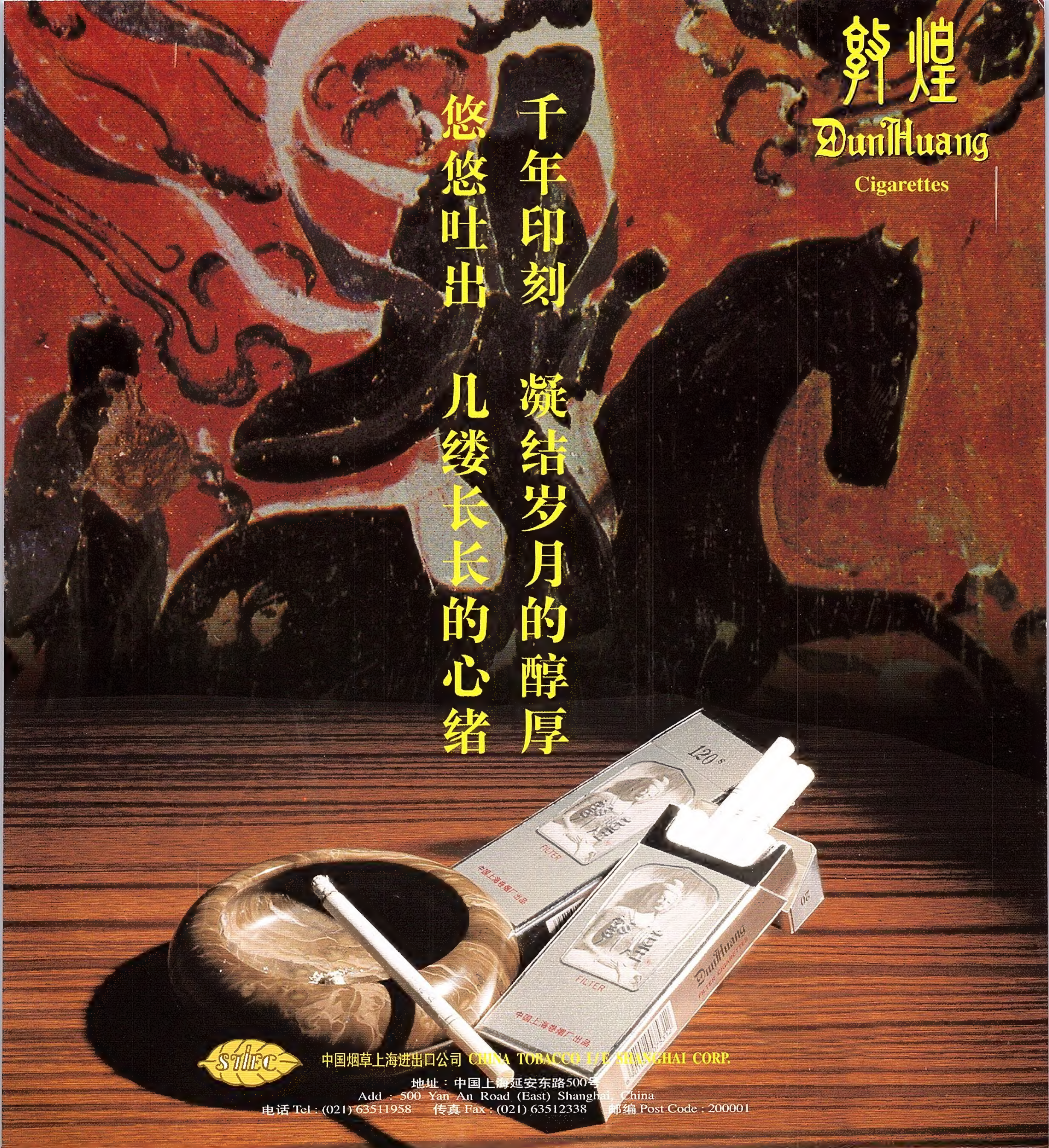
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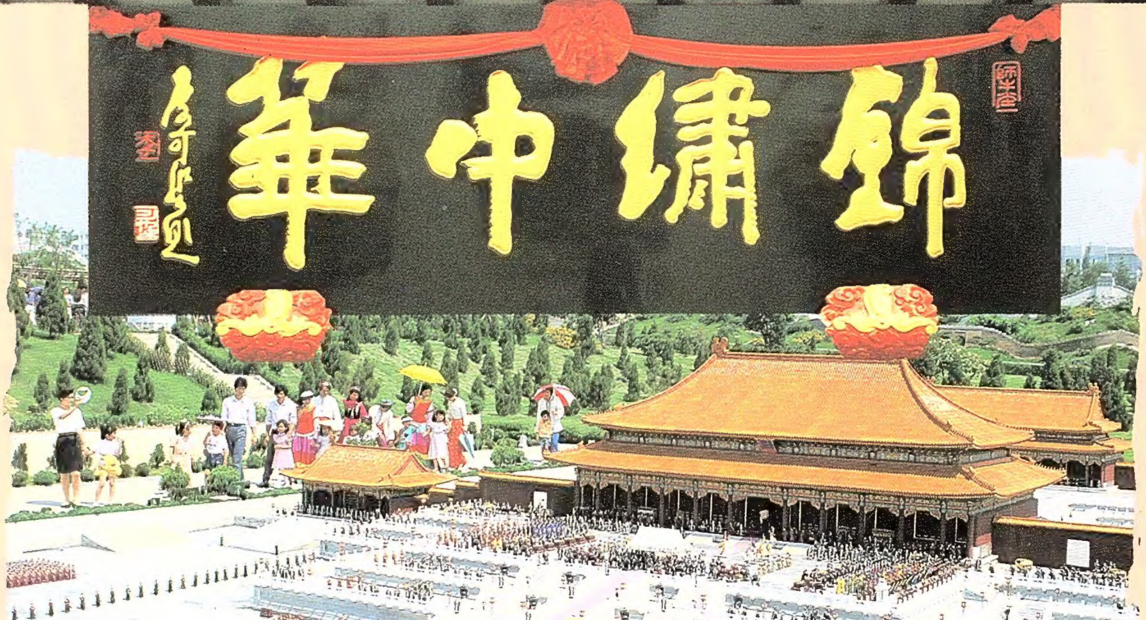

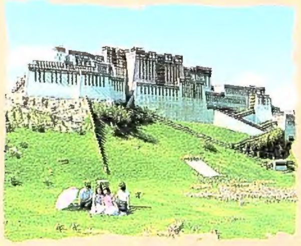

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China Travel & Trading (Deutschland) GmbH
(Main Office)
Düsseldorfer Strasse 14, D-60329 Frankfurt/Main,
F.R. Germany.
Tel : (49-69)238522, 238523, 238532
Fax : (49-69)232324
(Berlin Office)
Beusselstraße 5, D-10553 Berlin, Germany.
Tel : (49-30)393 4068 Fax : (49-30)391 8085

China Travel System (M) Sdn. Bhd.
Ground Floor, No. 112-114 Jalan Pudu, 55100
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel : (60-3)201 8888 Fax : (60-3)201 3268

China Travel Service (Korea) Co., Ltd.
7/F., Yoohwa Bldg., 995-16Dacchi-Dong, Kangnam-Ku,
Seoul, Korea.
Tel : (82-2)566 9361 Fax : (82-2)557 0021